



## VAN HOOK CLASSIC

LAKE SAKAKAWEA, NORTH DAKOTA

VAN HOOK ARM, LAKE SAKAKAWEA

JUNE 6, 7 & 8 - 2025

RULES & CONDUCT

### ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- A. All persons 18yrs of age or older are eligible to enter. Anglers under 18yrs must fish with an adult over 18yrs.
- B. Contestants must enter as a two person team.
- C. Each tournament contestant must possess a valid North Dakota fishing license.
- D. All tournament contestants must complete, sign and submit an official tournament release waiver.
- E. Van Hook Classic (VHC) reserves the right to refuse entry in this event to any individual for any reason.
- F. Each contestant will be required to have a US Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). PFD's must be worn when launching and running. Failure to do so may be grounds for disqualification.
- G. All contestants are required to observe all USCG and ND Game & Fish Department current rules and regulations.

### ENTRY FEE AND REGISTRATION

- A. The field is limited to the first 132 teams who apply with a completed registration form including correct payment. Five alternate teams will be recorded in order of receipt.
- B. Entry fees for anglers are \$300 per team. Fees must accompany application and are payable to VHC via cashier's check, money order or personal check only.
- C. All 2024 Tournament teams will have first right of refusal for 2024 Tournament Applications. These applications must be postmarked no earlier than February 1, 2025. After February 15, 2025, tournament applications will be open to general public on a first come first serve basis. All applications must be mailed.
- D. All teams are required to register and attend the rules meeting held on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at the Pavilion near the Van Hook Boat Launch. Rules Meeting and Registration will begin at 6pm CST.

- E. If you choose to withdraw from the tournament you must notify the tournament official. Withdrawals received after May 15, 2025 will be subject to a \$50 fee. Withdrawals after June 1, 2025 will be subject to a \$300 fee.
- F. Partner changes must be reported to tournament official in advance of the tournament date. **Partner changes made after May 31, 2025 will incur a \$50 fee.**

### FISHING

- Fishing will take place on June 6 & 7, 2025 with the 8th serving as a storm make-up day.
- A. Any contestant determined to be cheating will be disqualified and publicized.
  - B. Only **LIVE** walleye, sauger and saugeye measuring 15 inches or longer will be accepted. The longest method of measurement will be used. Complete rules regarding weigh-in and measuring sites will be provided at registration.
  - C. Teams will be allowed 2 fishing lines per team member.
  - D. Contestants will be allowed to use all legal artificial lures and/or live bait.
  - E. Contestants will conduct themselves as true sportsmen, ladies and gentlemen at all times.
  - F. All boats will be required to meet US Coast Guard safety regulations. All boats will be required to carry a state or provincial registration in accordance with home state or province.
  - G. All boats will be required to pass a thorough aquatic nuisance inspection point on both days of fishing.
  - H. No boat may touch another boat or pass any item to another boat during competition. Absolutely no going to shore once the boat has been launched unless it is necessary due to inclement weather and/or safety. A contestant may not leave his boat at any time during competition. Electronic devices may not be used for communication during tournament hours except for emergency situations.
  - I. In this VHC Tournament teams will be allowed to catch their limit both days and will be allowed to weigh a maximum of ten (10) fish on the first day and ten (10) fish on the second day. The five (5) largest fish recorded on each day will be added to create the daily score.
  - J. Tournament officials retain the right to delay, cancel or restrict tournament waters in the case of severe weather. If the first two days are not fishable the tournament will be run as a one-day event.
  - K. At the close of the day, check-in is required at the launch site. All boats must be through the checkpoint according to their scheduled times. A **late penalty** of 25% by weight will be assessed to teams returning less than 15min. late. Boats returning more than 15min. late will receive **NO WEIGHT** for the day.

- L. During tournament fishing hours, contestants must not solicit, share, or receive fishing information pertaining to method or type of presentations being used or location of fish with other contestants or non-contestants.
- M. **Failure to check in at the end of the day will result in disqualification.**

### BOUNDARIES

- A. Boundaries will be shown on the map provided at the rules meeting and will be marked by large yellow flags. Legal fishing areas include the whole of the Van Hook Arm extending to the south side of Shell Village.

B. **Crossing boundary lines will result in disqualification.**

### WEIGH-IN

- A. Seven (7) measuring sites will be located on various islands or on the mainland shore of the Van Hook Arm.
- B. Sites will close at 3:15pm CST. Weigh in site(s) for after 3:15pm will be designated and announce at Rules Meeting.
- C. **No team shall have more than three (3) fish in their boat at any one given time, upgrading is NOT ALLOWED – the decision to keep a fish must be made upon catch.** Once you place the third fish in your live well you must go to a weigh point and have the fish measured, recorded and re-leased. Your catch card will be punched at this time.
- E. Fish determined to be non-releasable must be used in the teams daily scoring total and will be assessed a 10% weight reduction penalty. These fish will be kept at the weigh point.
- F. A team may request to keep a fish 27 inches or longer as a trophy fish. Only one trophy fish per person will be allowed for the duration of the tournament. Once tagged this fish will be retained at the weigh point and will be returned at the close of the day. \*The 10% weight reduction will not be assessed if the trophy dies AFTER being tagged.

### PROTESTS

- A. Any and all protests must be logged with tournament officials within 30min. of the completion of the daily weigh-in.
- B. A service charge of \$150 must accompany the protest form. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid by the tournament officials.
- C. Any contestant may be required to submit to a polygraph examination at the request of the tournament officials. By signing the tournament waiver, contestants agree to submit to the polygraph examination. All winnings will be withheld pending results of the test.
- D. In the event that rules infractions are brought to the tournament official's attention and are proved valid after investigation, the offender will be immediately disqualified. Any cash prizes or awards presented to the offender must be returned immediately.