

# **2026 Brainerd Lakes and St. Cloud Chapter Regional Muskie Tournament**

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## **Event Details**

The 17th Annual Brainerd Lakes and St. Cloud Regional Muskie Tournament will be held as follows:

**Date/Time: Friday, June 19th, 2026. 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Lake Alexander - West Access - 31810 Lakeview Drive, Cushing MN 56443**

**Awards: 12:00-1:00 at Scandia Valley Lions Community Park and Pavilion**

**\*\*Awards, free prizes and lunch will be distributed at the end of the tournament at the Scandia Valley pavilion. Students must be present in order to receive their free prizes.**

All rules outlined in the 2026 State Event Rules Sheet will be followed as printed with the exception of numbers 1 (Event Boundaries), 9 (Pre Tournament Meeting), and 10 (Format-Measure, Photo, Release, Record).

## **Rules Specific to Lake Alexander Regional Qualifier:**

### **1. EVENT BOUNDARIES AND BOAT LAUNCHING**

- a. Only Lake Alexander is permitted for fishing at this event.
- b. Boat captains must launch their boats at the west access on Lake Alexander.
- c. Boat captains are expected to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by following safe practices and removing weeds from trailers, draining water from live wells, etc.

### **2. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING**

- a. Competitors will arrive at the west access of Lake Alexander by 6 a.m.
- b. A brief pre-tournament meeting will take place on land prior to the start of the tournament, at 6:15 a.m., at the west access on Lake Alexander. Basic rules will be reviewed and a judge boat with contact information will be provided.
- c. Boats will be launched into the lake starting at 6:30 a.m. before tournament take-off at 7 a.m.

**\*\*Forward-Facing Sonar is NOT permitted to be used during this tournament qualifier.**

### **3. FORMAT- CALL, MEASURE, PHOTO, RELEASE**

a. Teams are responsible to have a proper sized net to ensure the health of the fish. When a fish is caught, it should remain in the net, in the water. Hooks should be removed as soon as possible and the fish should be positioned upright. Every team will be provided a bump board to measure fish on.

b. For any **MUSKIE** or **NORTHERN PIKE** that is caught, the team should ensure that the fish is safely secure in the net, and upright. Team members and assisting boat captains should remove hooks from the fish. (Teams can call an assisting judge boat that is on the water if the team feels they need assistance with the proper handling and release of the fish. These phone numbers will be provided the morning of the event.) Once the hooks have been removed from the fish, a boat captain or team member must call **Jody** at **218-821-3727** to timestamp when the fish was caught. The team should then remove the fish from the net, measure the fish using the provided bump/measuring board, and photograph the fish. One picture must be of the fish on the measuring board and one picture with the angler holding the fish. The entire fish needs to be visible on the measuring device for a photo of measurement to ensure accuracy. Send both photos (1 of the fish on the bump board, 1 of the angler holding the fish) to **Jody** once the fish has been properly released.

c. Proper measuring of fish will be as follows: Nose must be up to the left stopper side of the bump board. Close the mouth of the fish when measuring to get the most accurate measurement. Pinch tail and swipe to get the full length of the fish measured.

\*\*Because this is a muskie tournament, these fish will score higher than northern pike. If there are no muskies caught during tournament hours, northern pike will be scored. The top 2 scoring teams for this qualifier event will advance to the state tournament on August 7th, 2026 at Vermilion Dam Lodge on Lake Vermilion.

\*\* Boat captains are only permitted to run the big motor on the boat and assist with the proper handling of fish. They are NOT allowed to fish or touch fishing equipment (this includes knot tying) during tournament hours. Student anglers are allowed to run the trolling motor UNLESS the boat captain feels uncomfortable with that situation.

\*\* While the big motor is running, during tournament hours, life jackets MUST be worn by all boaters (youth anglers and boat captains).