

## FISHING SPORTS *(Revised April 4, 2022)*

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| <b>Contest Description:</b>          | The Fishing Sports Contest tests the angling knowledge and skills of the 4-H members. This contest requires youth to take part in performance challenges (casting, fish identification, knot identification, and fishing gear identification). Additionally, 4-H members will be tested on fish rules, limits, safety and ethical issues and participate in a fishing tournament. The final component of the competition is a required brief paper on a real-life situation involving a fishing adventure (scenario). |
| <b>Superintendent(s):</b>            | Brian Gautreau & Catherine Fox  |
| <b>Award:</b>                        | Louisiana 4-H Educational Trip  |
| <b>Grade/Age Requirement(s):</b>     | Must be enrolled in 8 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade as of August 1, 2021  |
| <b>Team or Individual Contest:</b>   | Individual or Teams   |
| <b>Number of Entries Per Parish:</b> | Two (2) entries (individuals and/or teams of 3)   |

### Contest Rules:

1. Contestants who are **17 years** or older by June 1, 2022, will need a fishing license. Copy of fishing license is due June 3, 2022.
2. All supplies that may be needed during the contest will be provided except for fishing pole/tackle in the fishing portion of contest.
3. The total possible score for a team will be 955 points. (Performance challenges – 375 points, Test – 300 points, Scenario 100 points, and Fishing – 180 points).
4. The total possible score for an individual will be 385 points (Performance challenges – 125 points, Test – 100 points, Scenario – 100 points, and Fishing – 60 points).
5. A blue-ribbon group will be recognized in both team and individual competitions.

### Contest Format(s)

#### **Part I: Fishing Tournament** – 180 points as a team or 60 points individually

Contestants will work to catch and safely handle the most fish. They will fish in a pond to demonstrate their fishing skills. Fish that aren't properly handled for catch and release will not be scored. Contestants should bring (1) fishing pole and any tackle that they may want to use. Worms will be provided as bait, but contestants may bring their own. Poles will NOT be provided. Teams and individuals must work on their own during the tournament and cannot receive assistance.

#### **Part II: Performance Challenge** – 375 points as a team or a total of 125 points individually

The participants will proceed to different stations. At each station, they will be presented with a challenge related to:

1. Casting – Participants will use a rod and reel to cast a lure inside a target area to get points.
2. Fish ID – Participants will be asked to identify the fish by its common name only. However, only common names in the LDWF list in the study guide will be accepted. For instance, bowfin will be the only name accepted, not choupique, mudfish, etc.
  - a. Depending upon availability, specimens of actual fish (that have been caught and placed on ice prior to the day of the competition) will be utilized for the fish ID portion of the competition. Color photographs will be used if suitable specimens are not available.
  - b. A word bank will not be provided on the day of the competition.
  - c. Participants will also be asked to select if the fish is a freshwater or saltwater species.

3. Fishing Gear Identification – A list of potential gear items will be provided in the study guide. Participants will be asked to currently identify a random assortment of fishing gear.
4. Fishing Knots – Participants will be asked to identify fishing knots by name and to describe the appropriate uses of the knot. A word bank of the names of the knots will not be provided on the day of the competition.
  - a. Participants will also be asked to demonstrate the tying of a fishing knot that will be chosen at random.

**Part II: Test** – 300 points per team or 100 points per individual

1. Contestants will take a test related to ethical, safety, rules and environmental decisions facing fisherman in fishing situations. This test may be given electronically or on paper but will take place in-person. Team member scores will be combined for a team score.

**Part IV: Scenario** – 100 points per team or individual

1. In this exercise, contestants will work individually (together if on a team) to apply their knowledge to a real-life situation dealing with fishing. Teams will be required to work together to submit one answer. Contestants who are not on a team will answer a scenario individually. Scenarios will be judged on logical and practical information. This may be given electronically or on paper but will take place in person.

**Contest Resource(s):**

- Louisiana 4-H Fishing Sports Contest Study Guide, 2022.
- LDWF Website (for Fish ID photos) - [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov)
- LDWF Louisiana Recreational Fishing Regulations Book – [Downloadable PDFs available here](#)
- Sport Fishing: Aquatic Resources Handbook from the Future Fisherman Foundation
  - A PDF copy of this book is available upon request. Please contact contest superintendents to request.
  - There are also physical copies that can be checked out from the superintendents upon request. Limited supply, first come first serve.