

# THE Hudson River Fishermen's Association

## The Fred Rung Memorial Striped Bass Derby Official 2021 Derby Rules



**Starts: 7:00am Saturday April 17, 2020    Ends: 12:00pm Saturday May 15, 2020**

*This is strictly a no kill derby.  
Catch, Photo & Release  
and/or  
Catch, Tag, Photo and THEN Release Derby.*

**NOTE: Entry photographs are to be emailed to: [2021striperderby@thehrfa.org](mailto:2021striperderby@thehrfa.org)**

### 1. Pre-Derby

1.1. Entrants ('Anglers') are responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to all of the following rules. Got questions? Contact a Derby Committee member: Joseph Albanese, 908-456-2968, [joalbanese2@gmail.com](mailto:joalbanese2@gmail.com) or Scott Havner, 845-300-1562, [fishon7231@verizon.net](mailto:fishon7231@verizon.net).

1.2 Entry fees are as follows:

- HRFA Member: \$35.00
- New HRFA Member: \$60.00 (includes \$35.00 entry fee plus \$25.00 1-year *tax deductible* membership and all privileges of same)
- Non-Member: \$80.00
- Calcutta: \$20.00 additional

1.3. On-line registration opens March 1, 2021 and closes April 14, 2021. Once properly set-up registration may be done online at [www.thehrfa.org](http://www.thehrfa.org). Registrations also accepted by mail. Simply complete the application form and mail it along with a check made out to "HRFA – Striper Derby" to one of the following two addresses:

H.R.F.A.  
P.O. Box 421  
Cresskill, NJ 07626

H.R.F.A.  
P.O. Box 421  
Piermont, NY 10968

1.4. Derby participants must have access to a valid, working e-mail address. Just prior to the start of the Derby, the Derby committee will e-mail each participant their own unique 3-digit Derby number. That number must appear in any picture of a fish submitted for consideration in the Derby. We recommend that participants write that number on an index card or sheet of paper in print dark enough and large enough to show up in photographs. When taking a picture of fish to be entered, place the card or piece of paper in the photo with the fish.

1.4.1 Derby participants will also be entitled to an official Striper Derby 60" vinyl tape measure. If applicant includes a stamped self-addressed envelope one will be mailed to him/her. It is preferable that participants use this 'official' tape measure, which includes the non-profit organization logos for the HRFA, and its Derby partner the American Littoral Society plus a space to enter the Angler's unique 3-digit Derby number in Magic Marker.

1.5. Lines in the water shall not start prior to 7:00am on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Fishing will end promptly at 12:00pm on Saturday May 15, 2021. Times are based on the Derby committee clock.

1.6. Once the Derby begins, there will be no refunds for any reason.

1.7. By signing the entry form or signing up through the website, you are agreeing to the disclaimer on the entry form.

1.8. Cash prizes will be awarded for the largest five (5) stripers caught and released. (1<sup>st</sup> Place \$600.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$300.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$150.00, 4<sup>th</sup> Place \$75 and 5<sup>th</sup> Place \$50) All cash prizes are based on a minimum of 50 entries to the Derby. If there are fewer/more entries, cash prizes will be pro-rated accordingly.

1.9 The primary goal in practicing catch and release is conservation of the species. A further goal of this Derby is to encourage tagging stripers for science. Therefore, the HRFA has partnered with the American Littoral Society to award additional prizes for stripers 14" or greater that are tagged prior to release. No tagged striper under 14" will be considered. The Angler with the most stripers of 14" or greater length tagged and released will win an American Littoral Society weekend trip for two (2) persons to Montauk. The Angler with the largest striper tagged and released will win an American Littoral Society fluke tagging trip leaving a port in NJ for two (2) persons. In order for an entry to qualify in this category the striper photograph must clearly show the American Littoral Society tag properly inserted into the fish. Furthermore, the tag number and completed postcard must be included in order for the entry to count. This applies to each and every tagged entry.

This year, if the angler entered into the special Calcutta for an additional \$20 when registering, there will be a 1<sup>st</sup> Place cash prize of \$125, awards from *The Fisherman* magazine for supporting their 3Rs campaign (which promotes conservation of the species while raising funds to place satellite tags in stripers) and a striped bass fish & tag trip with Professor John Tiedemann's researchers from Monmouth University.

1.10 Springtime fishing for stripers in the Hudson River and East River is often done with bloodworms or other types of bait. **Circle hooks are now the law for bait fishing because they minimize the risk of gut hooking a fish.** Thus, circle hooks reduce mortality rates of fish released back into the wild. Additional suggestions for improving survival rates:

- Use barbless hooks to ensure quick hook removal and cause minimal harm to the fish.
- Get the fish back into the water as quickly as possible.
- Handle fish with wet hands or gloves to minimize removal of their protective mucous coating.
- Resuscitate fish by pulling it forward in a figure eight motion by pulling on its lower lip. Never move it backwards.
- Leave hooks set deep in the fish by clipping off the leader as close to the hook as possible.

## 2. During the Striper Derby

2.1. Boundaries are all legal Hudson River and its tributaries between the dam in Troy, NY and the Verrazano Bridge. Anglers are free to fish both from boat and/or from either NY or NJ shorelines.

2.2. Fishing areas must be open to the public during the time period an individual is fishing the Derby. If a fishing area is closed to the public during certain times of the Derby, then it is closed to Derby fishing during that time period. All respective NJ/NY state laws must be obeyed.

2.3. All fish must be caught on a rod and reel and within compliance of the law.

2.4. Entrants must hook and fight the fish on his/her own and must be the only person handling the fishing rod. The only assistance the angler may have is to have someone net, tail or leader the fish during the landing.

### 2.5. Submitting a Fish

**Photographs are to be emailed to: [2021striperderby@thehrfa.org](mailto:2021striperderby@thehrfa.org)**

2.5.1. To be counted, all fish must be measured and photographed with a measuring device clearly showing the length of the fish and your Derby number clearly visible. Since all stripers must be released alive any striped bass of 14" or greater may be eligible to win prizes. If tagged, the

American Littoral Society tag must be visible in the photo and accompanied by the tagging postcard and tag number.

2.5.1.1. Fish must be released alive in order to qualify for this Derby.

2.5.1.2. Fish will be measured with from tip of the nose to the end of the tail held in a normal position. (not squeezed, pinched or stretched)

2.5.1.3. The measuring device must be placed along the bottom (belly) side of the fish.

2.5.1.4. The photo must be taken with the camera directly over the fish pointing straight down.

2.5.2. Individuals may supply their own tape measure or ruler. The measuring device must be lying straight alongside the fish and be clearly visible in the picture for the full length of the fish being submitted.

2.5.2.1. If any part of the measuring device is hidden by the fish, the Derby number card, or any other object, the entry will be disqualified.

2.5.2.2. If the length of the fish cannot be determined from the photograph, the entry will be disqualified

2.5.3. Any fish not photographed as described in rules 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 and all of their sub-rules will be disqualified. It is the responsibility of the angler to ensure the fish is photographed properly.

2.5.4. Individuals must supply their own means of taking a digital photo. Digital cameras, cell phones, smart phones, video cameras, and iPads with photo capabilities will be accepted.

2.6 The HRFA will do its best to provide participants with daily updates on Derby standings by one or more of the following methods: e-mail blast to participants, posting on the HRFA Face Book pages and/or [www.hrfanj.org](http://www.hrfanj.org).

### 3. Derby Conclusion

3.1. At or before the conclusion of the Derby, all entrants who wish to enter their fish must e-mail the photograph of their largest fish and that of any tagged striper of 14" or greater length to the Derby committee.

**Photographs are to be emailed to: [2021striperderby@thehrfa.org](mailto:2021striperderby@thehrfa.org).**

3.1.2. Photographs must be submitted the same day as capture and no later than 12:00pm Saturday May 15, 2021. They may be submitted at any time prior to this deadline.

3.1.3. With the photograph, submit within the body of the e-mail the following:

3.1.3.1. Your name

3.1.3.2. Your unique 3-digit Derby number

3.1.4. Submit only one photograph. If multiple photos are submitted for the same fish, the Derby committee will judge the first received, or the first in the list of photos if they are all sent in one e-mail.

3.1.5. No photoshopping or other photo editing is permitted. Original unedited photographs only.

3.1.6. The Derby committee reserves the right to make editing adjustments to the submitted photo for clarity, such as to read the ruler or the Derby number.

3.1.7. The Derby committee makes the final ruling on the length of the fish submitted.

3.1.7.1. The Derby committee will determine the length of the fish by rounding up to the nearest half inch based on the submitted photograph.

3.1.7.2. The Derby committee, based on the submitted photograph, will judge the viability of the release of the fish.

3.1.7.3. The Derby committee reserves the right to make editing adjustments or to disqualify the entry (at their discretion) of any submission that attempts to show a false measurement using a forced perspective technique.

3.1.8. The Derby committee is not responsible for submissions failing to arrive by the deadline due to technical reasons beyond the committee's control, such as internet disruptions, power outages, etc.

3.1.9. Within the rules of this Derby it is possible for a single entry to win more than one prize. For example, the largest striper caught may also be the largest fish tagged. In this example the Angler is eligible to win both the HRFA's 1<sup>st</sup> place cash prize of \$600 plus the American Littoral Society's prize of a two (2) person trip to Montauk (valued at \$850). However, while an entrant may enter multiple fish for this Derby, only the largest submitted entry will be considered for a cash prize. This gives another Angler the opportunity to win a cash prize.

3.1.10. Entrants have the right to request a second judging of a submitted fish. They must make the request in writing and state why they think the measurement was mis-judged. Entrants may only make one request for a second judging per Derby. Any further requests must go through the Appeals process as described in Rule 3.2. Derby committee rulings on second judgments are final.

3.2. Winners will be announced no later than May 19, 2021. Due to the on-going situation with the pandemic there probably will not be a Striper Derby Awards Ceremony.

3.3. Any and all appeals must be made, in writing and given to a member of the Derby committee by midnight May 15, 2021. Appeals must be accompanied by a \$25 processing fee. If the appeal is granted, the money will be refunded. No investigations will begin without the processing fee. All decisions made by the Derby Committee will be deemed final.

3.4. The HRFA reserves the right to use any photographs submitted for prizes for its meetings and events, and for future promotion of the Derby.

3.5. If two or more fish of the same length are tied for an award, the submission received first will break the tie. The inbox time of the committee e-mail address will be used to determine time of receipt.

3.6. Any Angler submitting a fish which was tampered with or was not caught by him or her within the rules and regulations of this Derby, will be disqualified with no refund of any entrance fees and may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Entrants may be asked to take a polygraph test. Failing the test or refusing to take it within 7 days of the request will result in an automatic disqualification of the entrant with no refund of any entrance fees and forfeiture of any prizes.

3.7. Anglers who have been disqualified from this or any fishing Derby may be prohibited entry to this Derby.