

# World Waterfowl Calling Championships

Easton, Maryland

Property of the Waterfowl Festival & Aff.

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## 1. PREAMBLE

To encourage and promote good sportsmanship and perpetuate the arts and skills of waterfowling, The Waterfowl Festival, along with the sponsors and directors of the contest, will hold the World Waterfowl Calling Championships in conjunction with Waterfowl Festival. All the proceeds will then be donated to the conservation Non-profit organization, Waterfowl Chesapeake. The following contests, images, and any other forms of media are property of the Waterfowl Festival, INC. Unless specifically authorized in writing by the Board President of the Waterfowl Festival or a Representative of the Board, recording of these contests, on its stage, and the use of the intellectual property is strictly prohibited.

World Championship Goose Calling Contest ®

World Championship Live Goose Calling Contest ®

World Championship Live Duck Calling Contest ®

## 2. PLACE AND DATE OF THE CONTESTS

The office place of the World Goose Calling Championship, World Live Duck Calling Championship, World Live Goose Calling Championship, World Team Goose Calling Championship, World Team Live Duck Calling Championship, Junior World Goose Calling Championship, and the Junior Live Duck Calling Championship will be held in Easton, Maryland on the same weekend as the Waterfowl Festival.

- A. The Waterfowl Festival reserves the right to move the date and location of the festival to coordinate with the dates of the Festival.
- B. Preliminary Rounds will be held in the Easton High School Auditorium on Friday for the World Goose Calling Championship, World Live Duck Calling Championship, World Live Goose Calling Championship, World Team Live Duck Calling Championship, and World Team Goose Calling Championship.

## 3. CONDUCTING CONTESTS

Each contest will follow the designated set of rules as follows.

### 1. ALL CONTESTS

- a. Registration will be by official Registration Form Only, available onsite. Registration will open 3 hours prior to the start of the preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday. Registration is not considered firm until payment is received. Registration will remain open till 15 minutes before the start of that specific contest. Once the order determination has started, registration will close.

- i. Forms of payment currently are cash and check. No other forms of payment are accepted unless otherwise notified.
  - b. Preliminary Rounds will be held in the Easton High School on the Friday of the Festival weekend. The pool of Callers will be narrowed to five finalists per division who will compete for the championship on Saturday night at 5pm.
    - i. All Pre-registered contestants must check in with the score keeper to confirm their pre-registration sometime within the hour preceding the contest.
    - ii. Junior Preliminary rounds will be held on Saturday of the festival, prior to the finals.
  - c. Callers must be present 15 mins prior to the start of the contest of which they are registered. Each contest will start directly after the previous contest.
    - i. If a contestant is not present at the start of roll call, they will be disqualified with a non-refundable entry fee.
  - d. Contestants will use either Mouth or call. No use of props is permitted.
    - i. Shaker calls are not permitted.
  - e. The Callers will be given and instructed that designated area for competition. The caller is not permitted to leave that designated area. If the caller leaves said designated area, he/she will be subject to disqualification. Disqualification is determined by the contest committee and the MC.
- 2. WORLD GOOSE CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP:
  - A. It is the objective of the caller to simulate a flock of geese at a distance, getting their attention, calling them close, losing them and calling them back, and landing the birds in the decoys. The caller can create their version of the routine, and scores will be based on the judge's opinions of the caller's ability to simulate the above scenario. The decisions of judges shall be based upon cumulative scoring. Judges shall use score sheets as developed by the World Waterfowl Calling Championships Committee. All scores are final.
  - B. The winner of this contest will be designated World Champion Goose Caller. The winner will be awarded prizes as designated by the Contest Committee. The reigning champion shall be entitled to defend his or her title only twice.
  - C. There will be a minimum of 3 rounds.
  - D. Each Contestant shall be allowed a maximum of 90 seconds. A red signal/ timing light shall be in view of the contestant. Each contestant is allowed a warmup, no longer than 20 seconds or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies. The red signal/light will remain on throughout the warm-up. Once caller signals the Master of Ceremonies, or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies, the Master of Ceremonies will announce the caller is ready for scoring. Once the first sound is produced from the caller, the 90 second timer will begin, and the signal/timing light shall turn off. The signal/timing light will turn on again with 10 seconds left in the allotted time. At the end of 90 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound and the signal/timing light will turn off. If a sound is produced after the light goes off/buzzer has sounded, the contestant will be disqualified.

- a. Each contest will be recorded. In the event of a dispute, the tape will be reviewed by the master of ceremonies and 2 members of the Championship committee. Votes will be cast to disqualify or not, and majority rules.
  - E. Contestants shall be identified by number only until conclusion of the contest. Talking or any other form of intentional personal identification on stage, during the contest, will result in immediate disqualification.
  - F. Contestants must be in an isolation area away from judges and audience and shall not be permitted to leave the isolation area until the conclusion of each round.
  - G. There shall be a designated place for the contestants to stand for competition. Contestants will be given a place on stage, and allowed to use the entire space on the stage.
    - a. If the contestant goes outside the designated area to call from, the caller is subject to disqualification. This is up to the decision of the Master of Ceremonies and 2 members of the WWFF committee. Votes will be cast to disqualify or not, and majority rules.
  - H. Judges shall be located in such a manner as to avoid seeing each other, the spectators and contestants or from otherwise identifying any contestant except by number.
- 3. JUNIOR WORLD GOOSE CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP
  - a. Please see rules for World Goose Calling Championship.
  - b. The inner of this contest shall be designated Junior World Goose Calling Champion.
  - c. This contest is open to any person who has not, as of the hour of the contest, attained the age of 17. Proof of age must be submitted at time of registration. This requirement will be strictly enforced.
- 4. WORLD LIVE DUCK CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP
  - a. Callers object is to accurately represent ducks in their natural habitat, imitating their sounds to the best of the caller's ability.
  - b. Winner of this contest will be named the World Live Duck Calling Champion.
  - c. There will be a minimum of 3 rounds.
  - d. Each Contestant shall be allowed a maximum of 60 seconds. A red signal/ timing light shall be in view of the contestant. Each contestant is allowed a warm up, no longer than 20 seconds or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies. The red signal/light will remain on throughout the warm-up. Once caller signals the Master of Ceremonies, or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies, the Master of Ceremonies will announce the caller is ready for scoring. Once the first sound is produced from the caller, the 60 second timer will begin, and the signal/timing light shall turn off. The signal/timing light will turn on again with 10 seconds left in the allotted time. At the end of 60 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound and the signal/timing light will turn off. At the end of 60 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound and the signal/timing light will turn off. If a sound is produced after the light goes off/buzzer has sounded, the contestant will be disqualified.
    - i. Each contest will be recorded. In the event of a dispute, the tape will be reviewed by the master of ceremonies and 2 members of the Championship committee. Votes will be cast to disqualify or not, and majority rules.

- e. Any noise or sound produced by the caller that surpasses the ability of ducks, will be considered a mistake and scored accordingly.
- f. Contestants shall be identified by number only until conclusion of the contest. Talking or any other form of intentional personal identification on stage, during the contest, will result in immediate disqualification.

5. JUNIOR WORLD LIVE DUCK CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Callers object is to accurately represent ducks in their natural habitat, imitating their sounds to the best of the caller's ability.
- b. Winner of this contest will be named the Junior World Live Duck Calling Champion.
- c. There will be a minimum of 3 rounds.
- d. Each Contestant shall be allowed a maximum of 60 seconds. A red signal/ timing light shall be in view of the contestant. Each contestant is allowed a warm up, no longer than 20 seconds or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies. The red signal/light will remain on throughout the warm-up. Once caller signals the Master of Ceremonies, or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies, the Master of Ceremonies will announce the caller is ready for scoring. Once the first sound is produced from the caller, the 60 second timer will begin, and the signal/timing light shall turn off. The signal/timing light will turn on again with 10 seconds left in the allotted time. At the end of 60 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound and the signal/timing light will turn off. At the end of 60 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound and the signal/timing light will turn off. If a sound is produced after the light goes off/buzzer has sounded, the contestant will be disqualified.
  - i. Each contest will be recorded. In the event of a dispute, the tape will be reviewed by the master of ceremonies and 2 members of the Championship committee. Votes will be cast to disqualify or not, and majority rules.
- e. Any noise or sound produced by the caller that surpasses the ability of ducks, will be considered a mistake and scored accordingly.
- f. Contestants shall be identified by number only until conclusion of the contest. Talking or any other form of intentional personal identification on stage, during the contest, will result in immediate disqualification.

6. WORLD LIVE GOOSE CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Callers object is to accurately represent Geese in their natural habitat, imitating their sounds to the best of the caller's ability.
- b. Winner of this contest will be named the World Live Goose Calling Champion.
- c. There shall be a minimum of 3 rounds.
- d. Each Contestant shall be allowed a maximum of 60 seconds. A red signal/ timing light shall be in view of the contestant. Each contestant is allowed a warm up, no longer than 20 seconds or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies. The red signal/light will remain on throughout the warm-up. Once caller signals the Master of Ceremonies, or to the discretion of the Master of Ceremonies, the Master of Ceremonies will announce the caller is ready for scoring. Once the first sound is produced from the caller, the 60

second timer will begin, and the signal/timing light shall turn off. The signal/timing light will turn on again with 10 seconds left in the allotted time. At the end of 60 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound and the signal/timing light will turn off. At the end of 60 seconds, the caller cannot make another sound. If a sound is produced after the light goes off/buzzer has sounded, the contestant will be disqualified.

- i. Each contest will be recorded. In the event of a dispute, the tape will be reviewed by the master of ceremonies and 2 members of the Championship committee. Votes will be cast to disqualify or not, and majority rules.
    - e. Any noise or sound produced by the caller that surpasses the ability of geese, will be considered a mistake and scored accordingly.
    - f. Contestants shall be identified by number only until conclusion of the contest. Talking or any other form of intentional personal identification on stage, during the contest, will result in immediate disqualification.
- 7. World Team Live Goose Calling Championship
  - a. Please see rules for World Live Goose Calling Championship, #6.
  - b. Winner of this Contest will be names World Team Live Goose Calling Champions.
  - c. There is not a limit on the number of teams any one caller can compete on.
- 8. World Team Live Duck Calling Championship
  - a. Please see rules for World Live Duck Calling Championship, #4.
  - b. Winner of this Contest will be names World Team Live Duck Calling Champions.
  - c. There is not a limit on the number of teams any one caller can compete on.

#### 4. JUDGING, SCORING, AND JUDGES SELECTION

- a. Judging & Judges Selection
  - i. A minimum of five judges shall be required for each contest, selected by the committee of the World Waterfowl Calling Championships
  - ii. Judges for the World Waterfowl Calling Championships will be selected based to the following criteria.
    - 1. Judges must have some experience in contest calling, judging or calling.
    - 2. Judges can be past or present contest caller
    - 3. Former World Champions will take priority when selecting the judges
    - 4. When selecting judges for the World Goose Calling Championship, the committee shall use the following location Criteria:
      - a. Selecting 2 qualified judges from the East Coast, or Atlantic Flyway
      - b. Selecting 2 qualified judges from the Mid-West, or the Mississippi Flyway
      - c. Selecting 1 Wild-Card Judge, a non-typical judge, such as a duck caller, guide, hunter, or someone else with experience in Goose Hunting, calling, and the birds in general.
      - d. When the location criteria cannot be met, the 5<sup>th</sup> judge shall alternate locations year to year.

- iii. The committee will attempt to recruit 3 judges from the Mississippi flyway to judge the duck calling contests.
- iv. The Judges will be identified by name and associated directly with their score to promote accountability.
- v. Judges are not permitted to discuss scores or scoring with callers before the conclusion of the contests.
  - 1. If a judge is openly discussing the scores with callers, audience members, and/or other judges, the judge will be banned from judging the future as per the WWCC committee discretion
  - 2. If there is a direct violation by a judge to aid in caller between rounds, the caller will be disqualified and the Judge will be banned from judging as per the WWCC committee discretion.
  - 3. Judges shall not be allowed to disclose any information or opinions on callers with anyone until the conclusion of the third.

b. Scoring

- i. Each judge shall grade each contestant on a scale as follows:
  - 1. Round 1: 70 -79.5 points
  - 2. Round 2: 80-89.5 points
  - 3. Round 3: 90-100 points
- ii. After each round, the score keeper, MC, and members of the WWCC will decide to cut based on the score spread. Each contest will attempt to bring 5 competitors to the final round, unless ties force more contestants.
- iii. Judges are permitted to use whole points and half points only. No other decimal numbers are allowed. The judge will be asked to interpret the score.
- iv. Judges will use the score cards provided by the WWCC Committee.
- v. In the event of a tie between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds (Friday Night and Saturday Night), the tie will not be broken on Friday night and the contest will return all the callers to the next round.
- vi. In the event of a tie, the scoring shall be at the discretion of the judges and/or WWCC Committee
- vii. If Judging, all judges must agree to have their scores and their names associated with such scores, publicized and available upon request.
- viii. All Scores are final.
- ix. Any disputes, arguments, or confrontation about scoring for the callers can be submitted to the WWCC Committee for review. Any accusations, or conduct detrimental to the betterment of the contest prior, during, or after the contest will result in the constant and/or judge being banned from the contest for a period determined by the WWCC Committee.

5. Procedure and Processes

a. Contestant and Championship Expectations

- i. All participants and volunteers involved with the World Waterfowl Calling Championships are expected to conduct themselves as an ambassador of the Competitive calling sport and World Waterfowl Calling Championships and portray in a positive light.

- ii. Any action during or prior to the start of the contest that is deemed unbecoming of a Sportsman and Champion by the WWCC Committee will subject the contestant to disqualification and banning from competing in the contest.
  - 1. This applies to action detrimental to the contest in anyway on social media or other forms of publication.
- iii. The use of alcoholic beverages or drugs during or prior to competition or any other conduct unbecoming of a sportsman as determined by the WWCC committee will result in disqualification.
- b. Punishment, Suspension and Banishment of callers will subject to the discretion of the WWCC Committee.
- c. The process for reviewing any suspected violations is as follows:
  - i. Should the World Waterfowl Calling Championship Committee discover that an individual has committed an infraction that would warrant a disciplinary review:
    - 1. A certified letter will be issued to the individual in question.
    - 2. The certified letter will explain the infraction and will serve as a written warning to deter future infractions.
    - 3. Should the individual commit another infraction, within 2 years of having received the certified letter (written warning), the World Waterfowl Calling Championship Committee, for the current contest year will meet, either in person or via teleconference, to discuss disciplinary actions, which may include the suspension of the offending individual from The World Waterfowl Calling Championships held in Easton, Maryland for not less than one year.
  - ii. All Disciplinary actions including the written warning will be voted on by the committee of the current contest year. At the time the committee meets, a vote will only be permitted if a quorum of the committee's members is present or included in the call. The committee quorum will be made up of no less than 6 committee members and advisers. All members of the committee involved in the disciplinary review will be allowed to vote by proxy should they not be able to attend. The vote will be an open ballot vote. The Chairman of the committee will not be allowed to vote unless his vote is needed to meet the status of quorum in attendance. In addition, the Chairman of the committee will be the deciding vote in the event of a tie.
  - iii. Based on the severity of the infraction the Committee does reserve the right to bypass a written warning and impose all disciplinary actions they determine to match the severity of the infraction.

## Amendments

1. 9/3/19 - For all championships, the caller/callers are not allowed to leave the stage once the MC has acknowledged their warmup. If a caller/callers does leave the stage, that caller/callers will be scored based on what was recorded for score.
  - a. If the caller/callers experience a malfunction, the caller/callers are to signal the MC that he is having an issue. At that time, the MC will put the caller/callers on a timer for 2 minutes to fix the malfunction. The MC will give a 30 second warning to the end of the 2 minutes. At the end of the 2 minutes, the caller/callers are expected to be ready for score and will be scored accordingly. The caller/callers can signal the MC prior to the expiration of the 2 minutes that they are ready for score.
  - b. A caller can only have one Malfunction per championship for all three rounds and call offs. If 2 or more is needed, they will not be allowed the 2 minutes, and the caller must be scored at the end of the warmup.
  - c. If the caller does not call for the Malfunction break, it is up to the MC's discretion to determine the length of the warmup.

## AMENDMENT

1. Once a Caller walks onto stage, in the designated area, he is not permitted to leave that area until their routine is completed. If the caller leaves that area, the MC and judges will assume that the routine is completed and score according.