

# **\*Official 2009 Rifle Gap Ice Fishing Tournament Rules**

1. **Registration:** Adult entry Fees for 18 years of age and up will be \$30.00 from December 1 through the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, \$35.00 from January 01<sup>st</sup> through the 09<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and then \$50.00 for entries received after January 09<sup>th</sup> 2009. Youth entries 17 years old and younger are FREE. All 16 & 17 year olds must carry proof of age. ENTRY INTO THE TOURNAMENT OR THE PARK IS NOT GUARANTEED!
2. **Returned Checks:** Individuals whose entry fee checks are returned for Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) will result in forfeiture of any prize money, loss of eligibility for the next year's competition, assessed a \$30 fee and must pay bank charges. If a payment is made for several contestants and the check is returned NSF- all the contestants' eligibility would be jeopardized. Checks returned for any reason, the account holder would be responsible to reimburse the Rifle Chamber for any bank service charges assessed.
3. **Colorado State Parks Pass:** Passes are required for use of Rifle Gap during the Ice Fishing Tournament.
4. **Check-In:** All Registered Entrants must Check-In prior to Fishing. During Check-In Entrants will pick up Flags, Purchase Park Passes, additional information and literature. Early Check-In can be done at the Rifle Information Center and the Sportsman's Warehouse in Grand Junction from 3:00pm to 7:00pm on Friday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Or, the Cristo Park south of the Dam and the Rifle Gap Boat Ramp beginning at 6:00am on Saturday morning, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
5. **Registered Anglers:** Only registered anglers may win prizes. Unregistered anglers in your party may jeopardize the validity of fish caught by a registered angler. Contest entrants must catch their own fish. All fish must be caught within the boundaries of Rifle Gap State Park. Fishing below the dam will not be permitted and fish must be caught through the ice. No open water fishing allowed.
6. **\$20,000 Grand Prize:** The Adult Entrant catching the Longest Fish irrespective of Species will win the opportunity to draw one (1) envelope from a group of One-Hundred Security Envelopes within which contains One Certificate for \$20,000 which will be converted to Cash at a later date! Transportation to pick up prizes and any applicable taxes are the sole responsibility of the winner.
7. **Adult Division Prizes:** The Tournament will pay \$500 for First Place, \$300 for Second Place, \$150 for Third Place, \$100 for Fourth Place and \$50 for Fifth Place in each species category of Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Yellow Perch. Only one cash prize allowed per entrant. CASH WINNERS WILL BE SENT CHECKS via CERTIFIED MAIL. Transportation to pick up prizes and any applicable taxes are the sole responsibility of the winner(s). All winners of any cash prizes will be required to complete and return a W-9 form *before* winner claims cash prize.
8. **Youth Division Prizes:** Youth 17 years of age and under must be a Registered Entrant to be eligible for the youth division prizes. The Tournament will award non-cash prizes for Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Yellow Perch in two age brackets. The first bracket will be 10 years old and younger. The second will be 11 years and older. Only one prize will be awarded per Registered Entrant. The Tournament Committee will determine the Prizes the day of the Tournament.
9. **Unclaimed Prizes:** The winner(s) must pick up all prizes. All prizes must be picked up before January 31, 2009. All prizes not picked up before January 31, 2009 become the property of the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce and shall be disposed of at their discretion. It is your responsibility to check to see if you are a winner. Final standings will be available through the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce. You may receive the results by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to the address on the entry form.
10. **Early Ice Disqualification:** You cannot take your gear out on the ice and then return to shore before the tournament starts. You cannot have a non-fisherman go out early to reserve your spot. You cannot fish any predrilled Ice holes during the first hour of the Tournament. These rules will be strictly enforced and violators will be disqualified.

11. **Department of Wildlife:** All Colorado fishing rules apply. Those age 16 years or older require a Colorado fishing license and proof of age. Please consult your current rules and regulations pamphlet for special regulations for Rifle Gap Reservoir. A violation of any Colorado Fishing regulation is automatic disqualification for the entire tournament.
12. **Bait Fishing:** Bait fishing rigs are not allowed. This includes bait hooks set above or below a traditional jig or spoon. Bait is allowed for tipping any jig or spoon. A violation of this rule is automatic disqualification.
13. **Limits:** Bag limit for entrants is half your normal bag limit (i.e. Trout normally 4 – limit will be 2, Yellow Perch 20- 10). We request that you practice “Catch and Release” to protect the resource. We require the release of all “Walleye” taken during the Tournament since this species is struggling.
14. **Official Fish Measurement:** There will be check station locations at different places on the ice as well as several judges roaming the park for your convenience. Current standings will be posted at the boat ramp. Some sponsors may elect to post standings and results. Fish must be caught between the hours of 8:00am and 3:00pm on Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and 8:00am and 1:00pm on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to be eligible. The Fish must also be alive to be measured for entry into the Tournament. Late entries will not be accepted for any reason. It is each individual’s responsibility to meet these requirements. The official time clock will be located at the boat ramp.
15. **Length & Time:** Winners will be determined by length of fish (to 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch). In the event of a tie, the earliest registered fish will be the declared winner. (For example: If three fish measure in at the same length, the earliest would be the first, the next would be the second and the next third, etc.) Final tiebreaker will be a flip of a coin. No additional prizes will be awarded due to ties. If it is determined an entrant attempts to alter the fish in any manner, the entry and entrant will be disqualified from the tournament. All Judges Rulings are final.
16. **Motorized Vehicles:** ATV’s, OHV’s, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicles will not be allowed on the ice during the tournament. Emergency and tournament vehicles are the only exceptions. Violations of this rule will result in immediate disqualification.
17. **Beverages:** All Colorado State Park rules pertaining to alcohol consumption apply. Failure to abide by these rules will result in penalties applied by Colorado State Parks and disqualification from the Tournament.
18. **Care & Consideration:** Please help keep Rifle Gap State Park clean and be considerate of others; this is everyone’s park. Car-pooling is recommended, as parking is limited.
19. **Fish at your own Risk:** The Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Rifle, Committee Members of this tournament, participating merchants, Rifle Gap State Parks, Colorado DOW, and the Colorado Sportsmen Wildlife Fund, Inc. claim no responsibility for accidents or injuries on the ice, in the State Park, during transportation to or from the tournament, the surrounding area of the park or the City of Rifle.
20. **Agree to Accept these Rules:** By Entering the 2009 Rifle Gap Ice Fishing Tournament and signing the Official Registration; you agree to comply with, but not limited to all Tournament Rules and Regulations as well as DOW fishing regulations and State Park rules.

*\*The 2009 Rifle Gap Ice Fishing Tournament Rules & Regulations are subject to change without notice.*

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