



## Calling Contest Rules & Regulations

### World Championship Live Duck Calling Contest®

1. The World Championship Live Duck Calling Contest® and its images are property of the Waterfowl Festival, Inc. Unless specifically authorized in writing by the Executive Director of the Waterfowl Festival, recordings of the World Championship Live Duck Calling Contest®, including preliminary and final rounds of competition, are strictly prohibited.
2. A caller of any age may enter. There will only be a Senior division.
3. **Registration** will be by official Registration Form only. You may download the form from our website, [www.waterfowlfestival.org](http://www.waterfowlfestival.org). Click on Calling Contest, then click on Registration Form. You may request a copy by us at 410-822-4567. Registration Forms may also be obtained in person at the Waterfowl Festival office (40 S. Harrison St., Easton) or at the Easton High School Auditorium the day of preliminaries.
4. **Preliminary elimination** will be held in the Easton High School Auditorium on **Friday, beginning at 3:00 pm**. The pool of callers will be narrowed to five finalists per division who will compete for the championship on Saturday at 7:00 pm. REMINDER: All pre-registered contestants **MUST** check in with the Scorekeeper to confirm their pre-registration some time within the hour preceding the contest.
5. Competition callers will be allowed to perform within a designated area where callers will be allowed to move around and call in any direction. No sounds other than the sounds of Waterfowl may be made.
6. Contestants will call from a blind for 60 seconds in full view of the audience but concealed from the judges. A recording of live birds will be played for 10 seconds just prior to each contestant calling. As the contestant takes position in the blind, a red light will be turned on. Contestant will be asked whether he wants a "warm up" which is not to exceed 10 seconds. Contestant must make no sound except for calling on stage. When contestant starts calling the red light goes off. After 50 seconds the red light comes back on indicating that there are only 10 seconds left to complete his/her call. After 60 seconds the red light goes off. Calling after the light goes off will be grounds for elimination.

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7. The recording of live birds, *which may include any North American dabbling duck*, will be played for the contestants prior to each round of competition and will also be played for 10 seconds prior to each caller. The recording may be different from round to round. Callers must emulate the sounds of live ducks and may incorporate the sounds from the recording in their presentation. Callers will be judged on realism and variety of sounds.
8. Callers may use any legal pneumatic, voice or mechanical calls. Electronic calls are illegal.
9. For any reason, the judges may ask the contestants to repeat calls.
10. Contestants will be known by number only. Numbers will be selected by chance at the last minute in the warm up room under supervision for each of the two preliminary rounds and the final event. No contestant can leave the isolation room until the conclusion of the contest.
11. Scoring will be on a point system. There will be five judges. The highest score a judge can give is one hundred points. The total number of points will be determined by totaling the score after eliminating the highest and lowest scores. The contestant with the highest total accumulated score shall be declared the winner with the next highest second and so forth. Decisions of the judges in all matters is final.
12. There are no ties. In the event of a tie in prelims, a call-off will be held in order to reach the top five finalists. In the event of a tie in the finals, a call-off will determine individual place standings.
13. Any conduct unbecoming a sportsman shall result in disqualification.
14. Be respectful of callers on stage. No talking during competition and all cell phones must be turned off prior to entering auditorium.

**Talbot County Public Schools Policy: NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NO Guns and No DOGS allowed on school property. NO FOOD OR DRINK allowed in the Auditorium (including hallway, bathrooms, stage and dressing areas). Your respect of the above is imperative to the continuation of the Calling Contests.**