



Calling Contest Rules & Regulations

Mason-Dixon Regional Duck Calling Contest

A qualifier to the World Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Arkansas

1. Unless specifically authorized in writing by the Executive Director of the Waterfowl Festival, recordings of the Mason-Dixon Regional Duck Calling Contest, including preliminary and final rounds of competition, for both Senior and Junior divisions, are strictly prohibited.
2. **Registration** will be by official Registration Form only. You may download the form from our website, www.waterfowlfestival.org. Click on Calling Contest, then click on Registration Form. You may request a copy by contacting Rae Copper at rcopper@waterfowlfestival.org or 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.
3. There will be a Junior and Senior division. To compete in the Senior Division, contestants must attain the age of seventeen (17) as of the hour of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. To compete in the Mason-Dixon Junior contest, a caller must not have attained his/her 17th birthday by the date of the contest. Proof of birth date may be required by judges.
4. **Senior Preliminary elimination** will be held in the Easton High School Auditorium on Friday, **beginning at 3:00 pm**. *Junior preliminaries will be held on Saturday, beginning at 12:00 noon.* 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. Contestants are required to face the audience.
6. Contestants will call from a blind for 90 seconds in full view of the audience but concealed from the judges. 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 80 seconds the red light comes back on which signifies that there are only 10 seconds left to complete his/her call. At 90 seconds, the red light goes off. Failure to complete the call before the light goes off will disqualify the contestant from further competition in the contest.
7. Judging shall be based upon contestant's ability to bring in a simulated flight of ducks using all of the following calls: 1) Hail or long distance call; 2) Mating or lonesome duck call; 3) Feed or chatter call; 4) Comeback call.

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8. 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.
9. Callers may use any legal pneumatic, voice or mechanical calls. Electronic calls are illegal.
10. For any reason, the judges may ask the contestants to repeat calls.
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. The winner of the senior division will be designated as the official Mason-Dixon Regional Duck Calling Champion and **must** compete in the **World Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Arkansas** on Thanksgiving weekend (unless excused by the World Championship Rules Committee) or the contestant will be barred from competing in all sanctioned contests for two (2) years. If the winner is not able to attend the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, he/she must immediately notify Rae Copper at the Waterfowl Festival office so that she may contact Stuttgart and the first runner-up. In the event that the winner cannot attend, the first runner-up will represent the Mason-Dixon Regional Duck Calling Contest at the World's Championship.
14. Any contestant who is already eligible to compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest must abandon his/her state, regional or foreign championship title prior to competing in the Mason-Dixon Regional Duck Calling Contest.
16. Any conduct unbecoming a sportsman shall result in disqualification.
17. 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.