

Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association Scoring and Awards

The Medicine Hat Fish and Game Association (MHFGA) awards prizes to members of the club for the largest entry by a club member in many categories of fish, bird game, and big game species. The winners name will be announced at the annual Sportsman Day, and prizes will be awarded. Entries for bird game and fish will be accepted throughout the calendar year, Jan. 1 of the year to Dec. 31 of the year. Big game entries will be accepted and measured on the date of the Sportsman Day which is typically early in the new year following the calendar year of entry and harvest. To be clear, all fish, birds and big game harvested in calendar year 2010 for example are eligible for awards at the 2011 Sportsman Day. All bird and fish entries must be received by the club by Dec 31 for that year's awards. You must be a member in good standing of the MHFGA to qualify.

Many categories have a "junior" award as well. The age for eligibility in the junior category is 17 and under. If you are registered as a junior club member, you are eligible for the junior category. For example if someone registers a membership at 17 years of age in May, but turns 18 in June, they are registered as a junior. If the same person however registers their membership in July, they would be classed as an adult. The membership chair will have an accurate list as to where any member fits in that designation, and that list will be considered official in case of dispute.

Fish Awards

The MHFGA will award prizes for the following species: Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Goldeye, Rainbow Trout, and Brook Trout. As a conservation minded group, the MHFGA will be using the catch and release method of measuring fish, which is a length measurement ONLY. The measurement for length is obtained with a steel measuring tape. The fish shall be measured from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail. Do not pinch the tail as fork length is what is required. For illustration of fork length, see attached entry form at the end of this document. A clear photograph(s) of the fish showing the length must accompany the entry for fish. The photo(s) must show the entire length of the fish and clearly show the numbers on the tape measure. Winners will be announced at the annual Sportsman Day.

There is a display board showing the winners for the year, so if you can, please try to get a photo of the angler and his catch suitable for display. This is not required for entry, but it is requested. For all fish categories, there will also be a Junior award. For fish only, Junior entries will only be accepted in the

Junior category. There is also one award for Ladies fish. The Ladies winner will be determined by calculating percentage of the entry for that species to the local MHFGA record. The Ladies fish entry is open to a Junior lady.

The local MHFGA records for fish currently stand at: Northern Pike 39 inches, Yellow Perch 10 inches, Walleye 32 inches, Rainbow Trout 21 inches, Lake Whitefish 19 inches, Brook Trout 18 inches, Goldeye 15 inches. These are the standards for obtaining percentage. If a new record for the club is set, it shall become the new standard.

In the event of a tie, two anglers shall be announced as co-winners. There will be no tie breaker. The scoring and awards committee shall have final say in determining all winners according to these guidelines. Entry forms may be obtained from the local weigh stations, which currently are the Maple Avenue firehall, and The Outdoorsmen in Medicine Hat, or the MHFGA website, or the AFGA website, or from the MHFGA scoring and awards chairman who can be contacted on the website. Please fill out all pertinent information on the entry form. If you have a witness, have them sign the form, but remember, it is only the fork length of the fish that is required. The MHFGA is an affiliated club of the AFGA, and although the MHFGA does not award prizes for many species of Alberta fish, the club will provide scales and entry forms for those anglers wishing to enter the provincial fish competition. All entries must be intact specimens. All fish entries must come from Alberta waters only.

Bird Awards

The MHFGA will award prizes for the following bird species: Ringneck Pheasant, General Duck, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Hungarian Partridge, Sharptailed Grouse, and Merriam's Turkey. All bird winners will be determined by weight, with the exception of Ringneck Pheasants which will be measured for overall length from tip of beak to tip of tail, (for illustration, see attached entry form at the end of this document) and beard length in the case of the Merriam's turkey. Weigh stations in Medicine Hat are currently the Maple Avenue firehall, and The Outdoorsmen. Please fill out the entry form completely.

There will be a display board at Sportsman Day showing the winners name and a photograph if you can provide it. The club, in an effort to encourage participation will also award a Junior prize and a Ladies prize to the entry who scores the highest percentage to current club records in bird categories. The current club records for bird are: Ringneck Pheasant 42 inches, General Duck 3 lbs, Canada Goose 11lbs 8oz, Snow Goose 3 lbs, Hungarian Partridge 1lb 1oz, Sharptail Grouse 1lb 13oz, Merriam's Turkey 9 inches. The Junior and Ladies entry are also eligible for the general category for each species. Bird entries must be received by Dec. 31 of the calendar year to be eligible for awards.

In the event of a tie, there shall be no tie breaker and two co-winners will be announced. The scoring and awards committee will have final say in determining the winners according to these guidelines. All entries must be intact specimens. All bird entries must be harvested in Alberta only.

Big Game Awards

The MHFGA will award prizes in the following big game categories: Typical Whitetail Deer, Non-typical Whitetail Deer, Typical Mule Deer, Non-typical Mule Deer, Typical Elk, Moose, Pronghorn Antelope, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Cougar, Wolf, Black Bear, and Bison. The AFGA scoring system will be used (which is also Boone and Crockett's) and trophies will be scored using AFGA official scoresheets (which can be found on their website). In the event of a tie, there will be no tie breaker, and two co-winners shall be announced.

In an effort to encourage more Junior hunters and Junior entries, the MHFGA will award Junior big game prizes as well. There will be a first, second and third place trophy for Junior big game. Any species of big game may be entered and the winners will be determined using the percentage method of the Alberta Record Book minimum score. The minimum entry scores for each species can be found on the entry forms. A Junior can potentially win first second, and third if they happen to take outstanding trophies in more than 1 species. All Junior entries are also eligible for the general award in the species entered.

To promote Ladies hunting, there will also be a Ladies award for the largest big game entry based on the percentage method. There will only be 1 Ladies award, and Ladies may also enter the general award for the species.

The MHFGA will also award an Archery prize to the member who enters the largest trophy taken with archery tackle based on the percentage method. For the archery category however, P&Y minimum entry scores will be used to calculate the percentage rather than AFGA minimum.

There will also be a Primitive Weapon award for big game harvested with muzzleloader, crossbow, shotgun, or spear. The winner shall be determined by the percentage method using AFGA minimums.

There is also a Master's Award which will be awarded to the highest scoring trophy by percentage of all big game entries received.

The MHFGA also has a Non-current Award for trophies from days gone by. To qualify for this award, a trophy must make the minimum entry score for the AFGA records, and must never have been entered before. This category is to recognize trophy heads that for whatever reason were never entered before, but the owner would now like to share with the public, and not to award the same head over and over every year. Again, the percentage method will be used for calculation to determine the winner.

The MHFGA also will award an Out of Province prize for the largest trophy taken outside the province of Alberta by a member. The winner will be decided using the percentage method using Boone and Crockett's minimum entry score simply because there are trophies in other provinces and states that AFGA has no scores for as they are not available in Alberta.

The MHFGA will award a prize to the largest entry from a non-member again using the percentage method. This entry can come from outside of Alberta, but it must be current, and B&C minimum score will be used for calculation.

To summarize, all categories for awards are only open to members in good standing of the MHFGA with the exception of the non-member award. All trophies entered must be harvested in the province of Alberta except for the Out of Province award, and the Non-member award. A member may win in more than one category, but a trophy can only be entered with 1 score. For example, a typical whitetail deer may win for typical whitetail deer, archery, Masters Award and ladies award all with the same entry score. It cannot be entered again however with a non-typical score to win that category. Trophy owners shall make the decision whether to enter a given trophy as typical or non-typical. If there is no entry for a non-typical category, the entry with the highest "E line" total shall be declared the winner. The E line is the line on the scoresheet showing the total score of non-typical points.

There are several opportunities in Alberta through the draw system to obtain more than 1 tag for a species (deer the most common), so it is quite possible that a member could win more than 1 deer category with more than 1 entry.

Often in remote hunting situations it is common to split the skulls of big game to facilitate easier transport out of the back country. Trophies where the skulls are split will be ineligible for entry as spread is often a key component of the final score.

Occasionally hunters are fortunate enough to harvest antlered trophies while still in the velvet stage. Many records keeping organizations disqualify velvet trophies, as the velvet covering adds a little bit to the score of the trophy. The MHFGA will accept such trophies for entry, however 2.5% will be deducted from the final score to account for the velvet. This way the owner of the trophy is not forced to decide to strip the velvet or not for entry into competition.

The MHFGA has the right to ask for proof of legal harvest of any big game entry. Proof will be in the form of a wildlife certificate and/or tag.

Estate trophies, or those from hunt farms are not eligible for entry into competition.

Found dead wildlife is not eligible for entry into competition.

The MHFGA Scoring and Awards committee shall have final say in the determination of all category winners.

The MHFGA and its membership promote fair chase ethical hunting and fishing. Please everyone, have fun out there and be safe.

In honor of the contributions of past members the following awards are known by these names:

Hank Iwanicki Canada Goose Award
Alf Baldwin Mallard Duck Award
Ted Bowyer Pheasant Award

"If you turn the imagination loose like a hunting dog, it will often return with the bird in its mouth."
-William Maxwell