

seconds. After one minute and twenty seconds, the light will be turned on in view of the contestant. The contestant must complete the call within the next ten-second period. Failure to complete the call before the light goes off will disqualify the contestant from further competition in the contest. There will be a designated place for the contestant to stand and the contestant will be required to face the audience.

There shall be a minimum of two callbacks. A contestant must call a minimum of three (3) times before being declared the winner. In the event of a tie a callback will be used to determine the order of finish.

Judges will be located in such a manner that it is impossible for them to identify any contestant except by number. Judges must also be located in a manner that they cannot see another judge's score. Each judge shall grade each contestant by a percentage on a scale as follows: Round 1 — 70-80; Round 2 — 80-90; Round 3 — 90-100. Judges may use .5 point increments in judging at their discretion. In the event of a call back, the scoring shall be at the discretion of the Judges and/or Rules Committee. Final scores for the contests will be available publicly no earlier than December 1st.

#### 20. JUDGES:

A minimum of five (5) judges shall be required for each contest. The panel of judges selected for the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest shall include: 1) a former World's Champion, Women's World's Champion, Intermediate World's Champion or Junior World's Champion; 2) one local area sportsman; and 3) three or more sportsmen.

The panel of judges for the Arkansas State Duck Calling Contest shall include: 1) A former World's Champion, Women's World's Champion, Intermediate World's Champion or Junior World's Champion; 2) one local area sportsman; and 3) three or more sportsmen.

Communication between the audience and contestants during the contest is strictly prohibited. Violators will be disqualified immediately. No exceptions. Smoking will not be permitted onstage.

#### 21. ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS FOR REPEAT WINNERS:

The winner of any Women's World or Arkansas State contest may hold that championship for three (3) times only, not necessarily consecutively, and may not enter that contest again. This does not affect their eligibility to enter other contests. A three-time winner of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest shall not thereafter be eligible to enter any sanctioned contest except for the Champion of Champions.

#### 22. RULES / ENFORCEMENT:

The rules listed herein are a compilation of guidelines used in successfully running the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest since 1936. Strict adherence to the rules is essential to conduct a quality contest. The Rules Committee, or its designee, shall conduct spot checks of sanctioned contests in order to monitor compliance with these rules, specifically including compliance with minimum standards as set out in Rule 4 above.

Any complaints with regard to violation or interpretation of these rules by any sanctioned contest shall be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee at the address set forth in paragraph 26 below or by email to [worldducksanction@gmail.com](mailto:worldducksanction@gmail.com). Any written report of an alleged violation of the standards stated herein shall be referred to the Rules Committee which shall review such complaints at its next regularly scheduled meeting and shall submit a written response to the complainant.

The Rules Committee shall be empowered to investigate and impose appropriate disciplinary measures if the violation is verified.

Such measures include, but are not limited to: a) revocation of sanctioned status of contest; b) imposing probationary status for the upcoming year, violation of which may result in revocation of sanctioned status; or c) such other measures as deemed appropriate by the Rules Committee.

The Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee reserves the right to interpret the application of the contest rules. The Rules Committee may announce policies and rules that are not covered by these printed rules from time to time. The decision of the Rules Committee shall in all instances be final.

#### 23. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

The Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce and the World Championship Duck Calling Contest does not view Social Media as the appropriate forum for criticisms, complaints or negative views of any sanctioned duck calling contest, the World Championship Duck Calling Contest, the Stuttgart Chamber, of Commerce, its members, employees, former employees, volunteers, or affiliates. All Social Media postings must be professional and appropriate. Any person participating as a contestant, judge, or committee member in any sanctioned state, regional, or foreign contest, or in the World Championship Duck Calling Contest, who posts or comments on a Social Media site any statements as mentioned above, will be disqualified from participation for two (2) years if found to be in violation this Social Media Policy. You may be subject to liability for posts that are defamatory, harassing, or in violation of other applicable laws. Postings that include confidential or copyrighted information belonging to third parties may also subject you to liability. Social Media communications that are threatening, inappropriate, defamatory, harassing or in violation of local, state or federal laws or regulations are expressly prohibited. Unless otherwise authorized by the Chamber, use of the Chamber's logo or brand is strictly prohibited.

For purposes of this Section, "Social Media" includes, but is not limited to all social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube, and all professional networking websites such as LinkedIn.

By virtue of participation in any sanctioned contest, you grant to the Chamber and the World Championship Duck Calling Contest an unrestricted, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, display, publicly perform, exploit, transfer, transmit and distribute any information provided by you to a contest or any photo taken during a contest or sanctioned event sponsored activity.

**24. PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION:** The Rules Committee of the World Championship Duck Calling Contest reserves the right to disqualify a competitor from future competition at any time for any reason. After 3 violations of the rules, a competitor may be banned permanently. Contestants are expected to be good sportsman at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disqualification.

#### 25. ENTRY FEES:

Entry fees for contests conducted by the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Committee shall be as established from time to time by the Rules Committee. As of the most current revision of these rules, the entry fee shall be \$50 per contest if registered and paid in advance and \$60 for day of registration.

#### 26. ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee in care of the Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1500, Stuttgart, Arkansas 72160.



## World's Championship Duck Calling Contest

Sponsored by Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1500 | Stuttgart, AR 72160 | (870) 673-1602

[www.stuttgartduckfest.com](http://www.stuttgartduckfest.com)

## Official Rules and Regulations

\*(Revised March 2023)

### 1. PREAMBLE:

In order to encourage and promote good sportsmanship and perpetuate the arts and skills of waterfowling, the late Verne Tindall, Thad McCollum and Dr. H.V. Glenn, the founders of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, along with the sponsors and directors of the contest, the Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, and the residents of the Grand Prairie did ordain that there should be held each year in the City of Stuttgart, Arkansas, a series of duck calling contests.

### 2. PLACE AND DATE OF CONTESTS:

The official place of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, the Arkansas State Championship Duck Calling Contest, the Women's World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, the Intermediate World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, the Junior World's Championship Duck Calling Contest and the Champion of Champions Duck Calling Contest shall be in the City of Stuttgart, Arkansas.

The contests shall be held annually on a date that will be decided by the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee.

### 3. APPLYING FOR AND MAINTAINING SANCTION STATUS:

In order to retain sanctioned status, all regional, state and foreign contests must, in addition to Rules 4, 5 and/or 7 and/or 8, register their contest for the year. \$250.00 sanction fee must be paid to the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest at least 60 days prior to the date of the contest. This fee includes the registration fee for the winner of the contest.

### 4. CONDUCTING SANCTIONED CONTESTS:

A sanctioned contest is any state, regional or foreign contest sanctioned by the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee. The winner of a sanctioned contest is entitled to participate in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. Contest placement is determined by the Rules Committee.

There is not an age restriction on the contestants in the World's Championship. Once a contestant qualifies, they are no longer eligible to compete in the World Novice contest. Chairmen of sanctioned contests are not allowed to compete in contests over which they preside or administrate, but are permitted to compete in any other contests for which they otherwise qualify.

The winner of any sanctioned state, regional or foreign contest, may participate (as approved by contest chair) in any other sanctioned state, regional or foreign contest during the same year, however, the contestant must DQ before the 3rd round. This is only for stage time practice. A currently qualified contestant may not compete in the 3rd round of any contest after qualifying. Failure to do so will result

in disqualification from competing that year and in the following 2 contest years. This rules supersedes any rules prior to this date.

Any contestant that wins a sanctioned contest must compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, AR on Thanksgiving weekend (unless excused by the Rules Committee in writing) or that contestant will be barred from competing in all sanctioned contests for a period of the two (2) following qualifying years. If a Regional or State winner cannot attend the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, he or she must notify his contest officials 60 days prior to the contest so they may send a runner-up. Prize package delegation will be at the discretion of the contest chair. Contest Chairman have discretion over who competes in their own contest (disqualifications, suspensions, etc.)

**IN ORDER TO RETAIN SANCTIONED STATUS, ALL SANCTIONED STATE, REGIONAL AND FOREIGN CONTESTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM STANDARDS:**

A) 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. The decision of the judges shall be based upon cumulative scoring. Judges shall use score sheets as developed by the World's Championship Duck Calling Committee.

B) Each contestant shall be allowed a maximum of 90 seconds. A red signal/timing light shall be in view of the contestant.

C) Contestants shall be identified by number only until conclusion of the contest.

D) Contestants must be in an isolation area away from judges and audience and shall not be permitted to leave the isolation area until conclusion of the contest or elimination.

E) There shall be a designated place for the contestant to stand for competition. Contestants shall be required to face the audience.

F) 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.

G) Each sanctioned contest shall submit a video of their respective contest in order to assist the Rules Committee in determining verifying compliance with items A - F above. Submitted videos MUST show that required items in Rule 4, A-F have been fulfilled, otherwise compliance cannot be assumed. That contest will then be in violation of the sanctioned contest rules and is subject to revocation of their sanctioned contest status. In addition, each sanctioned contest shall provide to the Rules Committee a complete listing of all contests held in conjunction with their sanctioned contest and a listing of entry fees for each contest. A facebook live video is an acceptable

way to submit.

H) Contest Chairman or Committee members may NOT compete or judge their own contest. Judges must be 17 years of age or older.

I) Contest shall provide a list of sponsors as well as prize list for each contest.

Previously sanctioned contests will be notified in January of each year as to sanctioning status. The World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee shall make the decision as to whether a contest shall remain sanctioned. In making such decision, the Committee shall review and consider the degree of compliance with Rules 3, 4, and or 5, 7 or 8 (whichever is applicable) and with the minimum standards set out herein.

Any newly sanctioned contest must, six (6) months prior to their contest, inform the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Committee of the month in which the contest is scheduled. Previously sanctioned contests must confirm the approximate date for their contest no later than the last day of February.

All sanctioned contests must, within thirty (30) working days after their contest, forward to the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee all credentials required by Rule 5 or 7 or 8 (whichever applies) as well as the video required by Rule 4(G) and the pre-registration form for the winner of such contest. All information may be emailed to [worldducksanction@gmail.com](mailto:worldducksanction@gmail.com)

A change in contest chairman will require approval from the Rules Committee. A Change of Chairman form must be submitted a minimum of (60) days before contest is to be held unless there are extenuating circumstances.

#### 5. STATE CONTESTS (OTHER THAN STATE OF ARKANSAS):

In order to qualify as a sanctioned State contest and to maintain sanctioned status, all State contests shall strictly comply with the rules and regulations as set forth by the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee and specifically, Rules 3, 4 and 5.

Those persons who desire to enter the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest as a State Champion shall qualify as hereinafter set forth. There shall be one sanctioned state contest for each state of the United States for the purpose of determining a State Champion. Contests must be held in represented state unless otherwise approved by the Rules Committee.

The World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee shall have the right to determine the eligibility of all contestants. College students may enter either a state contest in the state in which they attend college (with certification from the school stating that he or she is a full time student) or a state contest in their home state, but not both. The World's Championship Duck Calling Contest will not be open to individuals who appear declaring themselves to be a state or regional champion in situations where a state contest or regional contest has not been held, publicized and judged as required by these Rules.

#### 6. ARKANSAS STATE DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

The Arkansas State Duck Calling Contest shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules and specifically, Rules 3 and 4. The winner of this contest shall be designated Arkansas State Champion Duck Caller. Any individual who has been a resident of the State of Arkansas for more than thirty (30) days before the contest may compete in the contest for the Arkansas State Championship. The winner of this contest may compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. Proof of residency must be submitted at time of registration.

#### 7. REGIONAL CONTESTS:

In order to qualify as a sanctioned Regional contest and to maintain sanctioned status, all Regional contests shall strictly comply with the rules and regulations as set forth by the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest Rules Committee and specifically rules 3, 4 and 7. The winner of a sanctioned contest is qualified to participate in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. There will be no more than 40 regional sanctioned contests.

#### 8. FOREIGN CONTESTS:

Selection of a National Champion for any foreign country or a foreign state/province or foreign regional champion, as well as sanctioning of such contest shall be made and determined in the manner set forth in these Rules. The winner of a sanctioned foreign national or sanctioned foreign state/province or sanctioned foreign regional contest shall be eligible to participate in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. Sanctioning of any foreign national contest or foreign state/province or foreign regional contest shall, except as otherwise provided, be made in accordance with Rules 4, 5 (for foreign provinces and states) and/or 7, and 8 herein.

The winner of any sanctioned foreign national or foreign regional or foreign state/provincial contest who shall thereafter participate in any other sanctioned contest shall relinquish his or her right to participate in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest as a winner of the first such contest and the runner-up from such contest shall thereby be eligible to participate in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest as the representative from the first such contest.

#### 9. SUBMISSION OF CREDENTIALS

Regional and State sanctioned contest officials must send in credentials of their contest stating complete information as to the number of contestants, contestants' names and addresses, contest sponsor's names and addresses, names and addresses of judges, judges' score sheet and video (See Rule 4 G). Email is acceptable.

FOR STATE CONTEST: Proof of publication by advertisement or notification of the contest by at least one insertion either as advertisement or as a news article in a newspaper of general circulation or online in the state for which the contest is held not less than fifteen (15) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the contest.

FOR REGIONAL CONTEST: Publications by advertisement or news articles published or online in at least two states adjoining the state in which the contest is held, in addition to newspaper or online advertising in the state in which the contest is held (except Maine, for which only one state adjoining is required.) The publications must have appeared not less than fifteen (15) or more than sixty (60) days prior to the contest. It is suggested that required information be mailed to the Contest Committee by way of certified mail, return receipt requested.

If a Regional or State winner cannot attend the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, he or she must notify his contest officials 60 days prior to the World's contest so they may send a runner-up.

#### 10. WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

This winner of this contest will be designated World Champion Duck Caller. The winner will be awarded prizes as designated by the Contest Committee. Winners of sanctioned contests shall be the only persons eligible to participate in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. The reigning Champion shall be entitled to defend his or her title only twice. (See Rule 20)

The defending World's Champion may enter both the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest and the Champion of Champions competition. However, the winner of the World's Championship Contest may not participate in the Champion of Champions Contest

in the same year he or she wins the World's Championship.

#### 11. WOMEN'S WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

The winner of this contest shall be designated Women's World Champion Duck Caller. This contest is open to any female. Winning this contest shall not entitle the winner to compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. Proof of age must be submitted at time of registration. This requirement shall be strictly enforced. World Qualifiers are not eligible to compete in this contest.

#### 12. INTERMEDIATE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

The winner of this contest shall be designated Intermediate World Champion Duck Caller. This contest is open to any person who has attained the age fourteen (14) but has not, as of the hour of the contest, attained the age of seventeen (17). Winning this contest shall not entitle the winner to compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. Proof of age must be submitted at time of registration. This requirement shall be strictly enforced. Qualifying for the World's Contest will disqualify you from competing in this contest in year qualified.

#### 13. JUNIOR WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

The winner of this contest shall be designated Junior World Champion Duck caller. Persons, male or female, who have not attained their fourteenth (14) birthday as of the hour of the contest, shall be eligible to participate. Winning this contest shall not entitle the winner to compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. Proof of age must be submitted at time of registration. This requirement shall be strictly enforced. Qualifying for the World's Contest will disqualify you from competing in this contest in year qualified..

#### 14. JUNIOR WOMEN'S WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

Effective 2015, this contest will no longer be held until further notice. Female Junior Contestants may compete in Junior World's.

#### 15. SENIOR WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

This contest will be held in the year 2023 and every other year thereafter. The winner of this contest shall be designated Senior World Champion Duck Caller. This contest is open to any person who has attained the age of fifty-five (55) as of the hour of the contest. Winning this contest does not entitle the winner to compete in the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. The reigning champion shall be able to defend his or her title only twice. Proof of age must be submitted at time of registration. This requirement shall be strictly enforced.

#### 16. NOVICE REGIONAL CONTEST:

Beginning in 2023, there will be a Novice duck calling contest which will be a qualifier for the World's Contest held the Friday before World's. To qualify, a contestant may (1) not have had a top 11 finish in World's in the previous 10 years; (2) not have won a sanctioned regional contest in the last 10 years; (3) not be currently qualified for World's.

Former Women's, Intermediate, and Junior Champions are eligible to compete assuming other qualifications are met.

If a contestant who is found to be ineligible competes in the Novice contest, they will be permanently disqualified from competing in any sanctioned event or World's Contest in the future.

#### 17. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS DUCK CALLING CONTEST:

Entrance is limited to those who, in past years, have won the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest and have never won the Champion of Champions. This contest will be held in the year 2000 and every fifth year thereafter. The current World's Champion

shall not be eligible to participate in the Champion of Champions contest (See Rule 10). Winners of this contest may not again enter the Champion of Champions contest or any other sanctioned contest. To the extent deemed practicable by the Rules Committee, judges for the Champion of Champions Contest shall consist of the past five Champion of Champions then living and able to serve.

#### 18. REGISTRATION:

Pre-registration is encouraged. The Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce shall maintain or designate the location of registration desk for those not registering online. Registration for each contest shall be closed thirty (30) minutes prior to the stated time for the contest EXCEPT for the World's Contest and the Champion of Champions contest, registration for which shall close at 12:00 noon or two hours prior to the contest, whichever is earlier. All contestants must sign in at the registration desk prior to the close of registration. Online registration will open October 1st and remain open through the Wednesday prior to the contests.

World's contestants shall report to the bus behind the stage at 1:30 p.m. for roll call. You will be disqualified if you are not there for roll call. No exceptions. The Rules Committee may exercise its discretion concerning extenuating circumstances that may permit registration after the time indicated. The decision of the Rules Committee shall in all instances be final.

Smartphones, smartwatches or any smart devices are not permitted backstage. Any contestant caught violating this rule will be disqualified from the contest and from the following 2 World's contests.

#### 19. ORDER OF APPEARANCE OF CONTESTANTS & METHOD OF JUDGING:

Subsequent to the closing of registration, a master list will be prepared listing all contestants. Each contestant will draw a number for order of appearance. A dummy caller will be utilized as contestant #1 in the first 2 rounds of competition. This caller will not be scored. The contestants in any callback that the committee may require will draw a new number before each appearance. Contestants will not be permitted to leave the isolation area during the contest except when accompanied by a contest official or eliminated from competition. Smoking shall not be allowed in the isolation area. The only contestants permitted on stage during competition is the current caller and the caller on-deck. Any other contestants on stage will result in disqualification.

The use of alcoholic beverages or drugs during or prior to competition or any other conduct unbecoming a sportsman and a gentleman as determined by the Rules Committee will subject the contestant to disqualification. Before determining those eligible for callback and before determining a winner, the total number of points for each contestant will be determined by totaling the score after eliminating the highest and lowest scores. The scores will be posted in view of the audience. The contestant with the highest total score shall be declared the winner with the next highest second and so forth, etc. In all instances, the decision of the judges will be final.

Judging will be based on a contestant's ability to bring in simulated flight of ducks, using the following basic calls: 1) Hail, or long distance call; 2) Mating, or lonesome duck call; 3) Feed, or chatter call; and 4) Come back call. Each time a contestant is permitted to call the time shall be limited to one and one-half (1-1/2) minutes (90 seconds). An overtime call will be disqualified. A red signal light will be in view of the contestant.

When a contestant is ready to begin his call, the timer will be started and the light will remain off for one minute and twenty