

OFFICIAL RULES - 2026

Isabella Lake Fishing Derby March 28 – March 30, 2026

Each participant must be officially registered with the Isabella Lake Fishing Derby Committee prior to 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026, to be eligible for any of the prize trout.

All Derby participants 16 years of age or older must have a valid California Sport Fishing License in their possession. Children under the age of 16 are not required to have a California Fishing License.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE 2026 DERBY

- 1) Online via the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce website at:
<https://www.kernrivervalley.com/isabellalakefishingderby> until 7:00 am, March 28, 2026.
There will be no online exceptions.
- 2) By mailing Entry Forms and Payments to: Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce PO Box 567 Lake Isabella, CA 93240. The form and money must be received by Thursday, March 26, 2026.
- 3) In-person at the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce located at: 6416 Lake Isabella Blvd, until 3:30 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.
- 4) In-person at the **Kern River Valley Eagles Lodge** located at: 12251 CA-178, Mountain Mesa, CA between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on Friday, March 27, 2026.
- 5) **NO IN-PERSON REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, OR SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026.**

A copy of your 2026 registration entry form will not be returned to you.
All participants must register with the Fishing Derby Headquarters prior to fishing.

If you have lost or cannot locate your registration, contact the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce to verify you are registered.

All trout must be caught under the guidelines of the current California Sport Fishing Regulations.
The Derby officially starts at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday March 28, and officially ends at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026.
No trout will be received prior to 8:00 a.m. Saturday March 28, 2026. Any trout caught before 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026 will not be eligible for prizes.

DO NOT REMOVE TAG FROM TROUT PRIOR TO VERIFICATION / ALL TAGGED TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE CHECKED IN AT DERBY HEAD QUARTERS!!!!

THE \$5,000 AND \$10,000 TAGGED TROUT ARE ONLY VALID MARCH 28 – MARCH 30, 2026, AND YOU MUST HAVE PURCHASED THE OFFICIAL DERBY T-SHIRT, HOODIE OR DERBY HAT PRIOR TO THE CATCH TO QUALIFY. THE TAGGED TROUT VALUE IS LIMITED TO \$2,500 AND \$5,000 IF THE ABOVE PURCHASE WAS NOT MADE.

All tagged or untagged trout must be fresh caught within the footprint of Isabella Lake and show no signs of alteration.

To qualify for prizes participant must be registered and show proper identification. Each winner is responsible for paying any and all taxes on any prize(s) won and must authorize the deduction of such taxes, if any, from the prize(s) to the extend required by law.

Any angler caught submitting another angler's catch as their own will be disqualified from the event and all prize money due will be forfeited.

A Polygraph test may be requested.

The Fishing derby will take place as scheduled regardless of weather conditions.

To help prevent the introduction of invasive species, fishermen are reminded to inspect and clean all equipment (boats, trailers, paddles, etc.) to remove all soil, seed & plant materials before entering Isabella Lake.

The Isabella Lake Fishing Derby is under special use permit with the Sequoia National Forest and operates on a nondiscriminatory basis. To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call, toll free, (866) 632-9992.

TROUT VALIDATION

Headquarters Located at the **Kern River Valley Eagles Lodge** – 12251 CA-178, Mountain Mesa, CA

You must have your official registration card from your in-person or online purchase in your possession to claim any prize trout. All tagged prize trout must be turned in to Isabella Lake Derby Headquarters **IN PERSON ONLY no exceptions.**

BLIND BOGEY 2026

The Blind Bogey is designated to allow more participants the opportunity to win money/prizes. Each angler can bring in ONE tagged or untagged Trout of any size per day (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) to qualify for the Blind Bogey. A total of 20 (twenty) prizes in the amount of \$25 thru \$100 will be drawn per day. A total of \$1,000 per day will be given away.

Please arrive approximately one hour before the drawing to allow time to check in your catch.

- **When an angler brings in a trout, they are given a ticket that will be placed in the drawing tumbler. ONE ticket per angler.**
- **Saturday, 5:00 PM Twenty lucky tickets will be drawn for cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$100.**
- **Sunday, 5:00 PM Twenty lucky tickets will be drawn for cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$100.**
- **Monday, 5:00 PM Twenty lucky tickets will be drawn for cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$100.**
- **ANGLERS MUST BE PRESENT WITH THEIR HALF OF THE TICKET TO WIN, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

TAGGED TROUT 2026

There will be copies of the Tagged Trout numbers and their values available at Derby Headquarters. You will be able to take photos of the Leaderboard as well and they will also be posted on Facebook.

The \$10,000 tags are #0078, #0476 and #0328-Cope's Shopping spree (If the Official purchase was made – reduced to \$5,000 if not)

The \$5,000 tags are #0238 and #0273 (If the Official purchase was made – reduced to \$2,500 if not)

In addition, there are:

- 10 - \$500.00 tags
- 10 - \$250.00 tags
- 100 - \$100.00 tags
- 166 - \$50.00 tags
- 209 - \$20.00 tags

BOBBER BOWL 2026

Any \$100 tagged trout is eligible for the Bobber Bowl until all Bobbers have been claimed.

LONGEST TROUT 2026

If you bring in the Longest Trout, tagged or not tagged, between 8:00 am Saturday, March 28, and 4:00 pm Monday, March 30, you will win a 43" Color TV plus \$100 GC for Adults (16 and over) or a 32" Color TV/Monitor plus \$100 GC for Youth (15 and under).

All trout must be fresh and show no signs of alteration.

TAGGED TROUT TOTAL

To enter the Tagged Trout Total, you must put \$5 in the pot and guess how many Tagged Trout will be caught on the three days of the derby – Saturday, March 28, thru Monday March 30, 2026.

The person on or closest without going over will win half the money collected in the pot!!

You can enter any time before 7:00 AM Saturday March 28, 2026.

ANYONE CAN ENTER: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE REGISTERED IN THE DERBY AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

**For updates check out our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/lakeisabellafishingderby>
THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP AND PROPERLY DISPOSING YOUR TRASH**