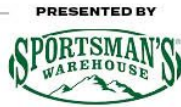




RMEF WORLD ELK CALLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 24, 2023



BIG SKY, MONTANA

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The regulations contained herein set forth the rules and procedures governing the 2023 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) World Elk Calling Championships™ (WECC). The regulations are also an attempt to create high standards for all elk calling competitions.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONTEST REGULATIONS

Any entrant failing to comply with any of the requirements as herein set forth shall be disqualified from the contest and will be ineligible to compete.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the contest is to imitate actual elk sounds and to allow the contestants to demonstrate their ability to reproduce these sounds. Because not all elk sound exactly alike, it is expected that not all contestants will sound exactly alike. Every contestant has an equal chance to win.

DIVISIONS

There are five divisions:

1. Professional Division*
2. Men's Division
3. Women's Division**
4. Youth Division, (11-17 yrs.)
5. Pee Wee Division, (10 yrs. and under)

An amateur elk caller is one who participates in competitions for fun and as a non-profit-making activity and who does not receive compensation for teaching elk calling or for other activities because of elk calling skill or reputation. Note: Excludes prizes awarded at RMEF-sanctioned calling competitions.

Contest officials reserve the right to reclassify contestants for the appropriate division.

**Any entrant who owns a calling business or works as a sales representative, ambassador, demonstrator or any official capacity, as determined solely by RMEF, for a calling business must enter the contest in the Professional Division. (Female professionals may choose to compete in the Women's Division.)*

***In an effort to bolster participation in the Women's Division, entrants may be either amateur or professional. (By way of information, "amateurs" defeated competitors with "professional" credentials to win both the 2017 and 2018 WECC Women's Division titles.)*

DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of three contestants is required for each division. If fewer than three contestants register, that division will be eliminated, and the contestants will have the option to upgrade to a higher division. Each caller will follow the same basic format as outlined in these rules.

Contestants cannot enter more than one individual division. If a contestant has entered the Professional Division in the past and wishes to enter the Men's or Women's Division this year, he or she may do so. However, contestants who are classified as Professional must always enter the Professional Division, unless they are a female and choose to compete in the Women's Division instead. The same applies toward the youth contestants. If a youth contestant wishes to enter the Men's or Women's Division one year and desires to enter the Youth Division another year, he or she may do so provided they meet the age limit for the Youth Division.

COMPETITION FORMAT & SEEDING CRITERIA

Each division competition will be held in one day in a head-to-head, bracketed format based on seeding similar to the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Brackets will be posted at the event prior to the start. Seeding is final and no changes will be made on-site.

- Number 1 seed will be the defending champion in that division from the previous year's World Championships. Rest of seeding will be determined based on a combination of the following:
 - Results from the previous years
 - Order of finish in the RMEF sanctioned Regional Competitions
 - Random order for all new contestants

If the overall number of contestants in a division is not 8, 16, 32 or 64, depending on the size of the bracket, higher seeds will receive a bye in the early round(s).

In a 16-person field, the top seed would face off against the 16th seed, the second seed versus the 15th seed, etc. until an overall winner is determined.

If there are only three contestants in a given division, all three competitors will perform, and a winner will be determined by the highest point total.

DUE TO ONLY HAVING ONE DAY FOR COMPETITION, ALL PRELIMINARY MATCHES WILL BE SINGLE ELIMINATION THIS YEAR. PROFESSIONAL, MEN AND WOMEN WILL HAVE DOUBLE ELIMINATION IN FINALS ONLY.

REGISTRATION

All contestants are required to register online at <https://www.rmef.org/wecc> and must be pre-registered by 5:00 p.m. (MDT) on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. NOTE: there are NO entry fees. The competition is open to any qualifying persons.

All registrants will be asked to submit a brief biography and "headshot" or "hunting/in the field" type photo. RMEF plans to promote and build excitement around the Calling Championships pre-event via social media and during the competition. Contestants may opt out of this request.

CALLING DEVICES/PROPS

Only vocal calling or sounds produced by handheld or breath-operated instruments may be used. Contestants can only produce sounds specified by the announcer. Electronic devices and the use of props such as trees, antlers, breaking branches and other devices are prohibited. (Contestants are prohibited to operate instruments by stepping on them or squeezing them between their knees or under their arms.) Calls, grunt tubes or any other instruments used can be a maximum of six inches in diameter and no more than three feet long. Calls in question will be measured by the officials. Contestants must be able to carry their calls to the calling area on their person. Duffle bags and backpacks are not allowed. A table will be provided for the contestants to put their devices on while they are calling.

CALLS

Contestants will base their calls on the following sequence. For the Professional, Men's, Women's, Youth divisions and Pee Wee, a maximum of 1 minute will be allowed (30 seconds for cow/calf sounds and 30 seconds for bull sounds). Each caller will be asked to produce both cow/calf sounds and bull elk sounds.

Once contestants make the final 4, a 30 second freelance calls (which can be any combination of calls) will added in the Professional, Men's, Women's and Youth divisions. Pee Wee will remain the same.

Callers must produce sounds specified by the announcer within 15 seconds from the time the announcer asks. When the caller makes his/her first sound, an official of the contest will start a time clock. The contestant will be able to see the clock at all times when calling. A buzzer will go off at the end of the time limit.

CALLING SEQUENCE

The contestants will be placed into brackets by seeding. The brackets will be posted before the first round. Prior to each match, we will draw to see who calls first. The higher seed will draw. If a contestant misses his/her calling sequence during any round, he/she will be automatically disqualified from the contest.

LOCATION OF CONTESTANTS

The competition will be held in the Missouri Ballroom in the Yellowstone Convention Center at the Huntley Hotel during the RMEF Mountain Festival and Total Archery Challenge. There is no fee to enter the RMEF Mountain Festival. Contestants will call in an area designated by the contest officials. During the competition, one side of the stage will be designated for Caller 1. The other side of the stage will be designated for Caller 2. These sides will be consistent throughout the competition. Contestants will be asked to remain in an area designated by the contest officials during the contest. Contestants will not be allowed to practice in the building at any time. Contestants will be required to exit the building if they wish to practice before the competition.

CONTEST OFFICIALS

Contest officials will be announced prior to the start of competition. The officials will have the option to inspect and approve all calling devices used by the contestants. The officials have the right to allow or prohibit any calling devices from being used. The decision of the contest officials is final.

LOCATION OF JUDGES

Judges will score each call from draped off area that completely prevents them from seeing or identifying the contestants. This area will be near the calling site. RMEF will make its best effort to mitigate the noise from nearby events.

JUDGES

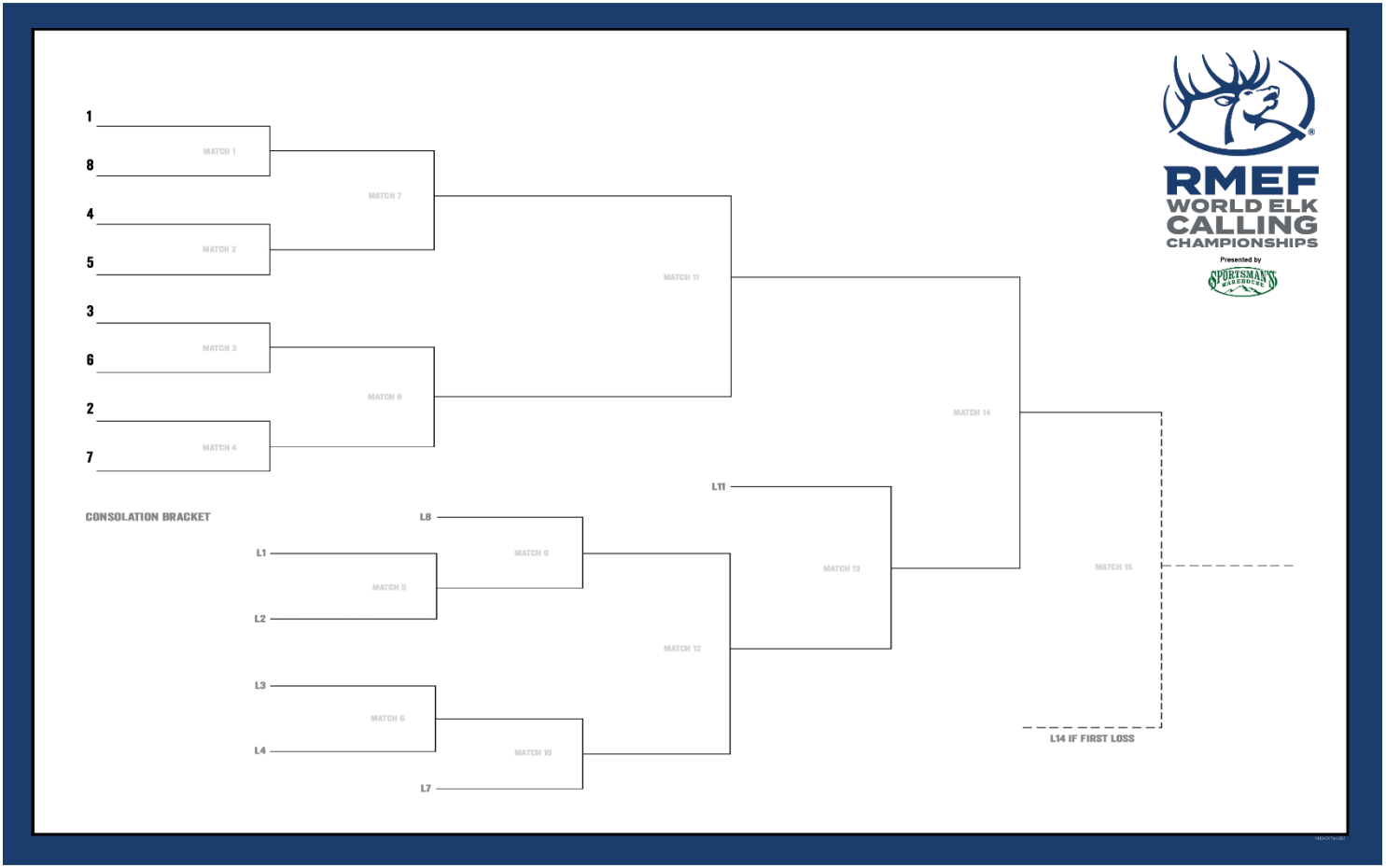
Knowledgeable judges will be scoring the competition. Judges will be comprised of outfitters, guides, wildlife biologists, etc. No person shall serve as a judge if he/she is related to any contestant. There will be a minimum of five judges and a maximum of nine judges scoring. Judges will not be allowed to re-score any contestant once his/her scorecard has been submitted.

SCORING

Judges will evaluate each series of calls from one (1) through twenty (20), one (1) being the lowest, and twenty (20) the highest for a total possible score of 40 points per contestant per judge. There will be an odd number of judges and each judge will award a point. The winner of each head-to-head competition will be the caller with the most points (9-0, 8-1, 7-2, 6-3, 5-4). Contestants may request their scorecards, if desired, after the competition.

WINNERS

Once the field is whittled down to four contestants, double-elimination rounds will begin in the Professional, Men's and Women's divisions only. Each winner will advance forward in the "winner's bracket" while each caller that is defeated will proceed to the "consolation bracket". The further along in the winner's bracket that an individual goes, the later into the consolation bracket that person is seeded. A caller is eliminated after two defeats. The winner of the consolation bracket will face off against the winner of the winner's bracket and proceed until an individual is defeated twice. A sample bracket can be seen below.



ANNOUNCER

The brackets will be posted prior to the start of the contest. The announcer will welcome the audience and participants, and then introduce the judges. The judges will be sequestered. (All contestants will be announced by name and bio before the first round but will be referred to as caller 1 or 2 on stage. Caller number will be all that is shared with the judges.)

Example: The announcer will ask the two contestants in bracket #1 to come up to the stage, higher seed will quietly draw to see who is caller 1 or 2. Both contestants will take the stage on the designated side. Announcer will then say, "Caller #1...cow/calf sounds...Caller #2... cow/calf sounds ...Caller #1...bull sounds...Caller #2...bull sounds...Caller #1...freelance...Caller #2...freelance."

Scores will be tallied by the scorekeepers and brackets will be updated after each round and posted in the back of the room.

PRIZES

- First-place winners will receive the following:
- Professional Division - \$5,000 cash, gear prizes and a trophy
 - Men's Division - \$2,500 cash, gear prizes and a trophy
 - Women's Division - \$2,500 cash, gear prizes and a trophy
 - Youth Division - \$1,000 cash, gear prizes and a trophy
 - Pee Wee Division - \$1,000 cash, gear prizes and a trophy

Second- and third-place finishers in all divisions will receive gear prizes and a trophy.

Fourth-place finisher will receive a plaque.

VIDEO AND MEDIA COVERAGE

It will be required that all contestants sign a personal film/video/media release. Contestants who refuse to sign the waiver will be disqualified from the contest. The waiver will be included in the online registration process.

CONTESTANT CONDUCT

All contestants must adhere to the rules and regulations of the contest. Any contestants who harass the announcer, calling officials, scorekeepers, or other contestants will be disqualified indefinitely from all RMEF calling contests. This includes any family member even if he/she is not competing.

CONTESTANT HISTORY

Contestants shall not have a criminal record containing felony convictions, game law violations or any other history over the last 10 years that may reflect poorly on or inhibit the RMEF. RMEF reserves the right to disqualify contestants at its own discretion.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

All contestant protests must be put in writing and submitted to the contest officials. Such protests must state clearly the cause of the complaint or appeal, and must be delivered or emailed or mailed to a contest official within 48 hours after occurrence of alleged incident. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. Action on the protest will be handled by the contest officials. A written response will be mailed or emailed within 30 days after the protest is received. The decision of the contest officials in the matter shall be final.

CALLING TECHNIQUE:

Contestants will be allowed to discuss their calling technique with the judges after the contest finals. However, if for any reason the judges are harassed by any caller, the contestant will be immediately disqualified from the competition. If there are any comments or concerns regarding the competition, they should be directed in writing to the contest officials.

CONTEST SPECTATORS

Due to restrictions and regulations at the Huntley Hotel, spectators and/or contestants participating not in the current competing category may or may not be allowed inside the room during the Calling Contest. RMEF will announce any limits or rules regarding spectators and contestants the week of the competition.

MANDATORY CONTESTANT CHECK-IN*

7:30 - 8:30 a.m., Saturday, June 24, 2023

RMEF Mountain Festival

Missouri Ballroom in the Yellowstone Convention Center, Huntley Hotel, 50 Big Sky Resort Road, Big Sky, MT 59716

Entrants must check in at this time, no exceptions.

MANDATORY CONTESTANT MEETING*

10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 24, 2023

RMEF Mountain Festival

Missouri Ballroom in the Yellowstone Convention Center, Huntley Hotel, 50 Big Sky Resort Road, Big Sky, MT 59716

**Contestant check-in and meeting times may be changed due to facility restrictions. Any changes will be communicated to contestants the week of the competition.*

COMPETITION

10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 24, 2023

RMEF Mountain Festival

Missouri Ballroom in the Yellowstone Convention Center, Huntley Hotel, 50 Big Sky Resort Road, Big Sky, MT 59716

SPECIAL NOTE:

All contestants are required to attend the mandatory contestant check-in and meeting. Failure to attend can result in disqualification from the contest.