



# RMEF WORLD ELK CALLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 23-24, 2020

PRESENTED BY



PARK CITY, UTAH

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The regulations contained herein set forth the rules and procedures governing the 2020 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 six divisions:

1. Professional Division\*
2. Men's Division
3. Women's Division\*\*
4. Voice Division\*\*\*
5. Youth Division, (11-17 yrs.)
6. 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.)*

*\*\*\* All entrants in the voice division must use only their voice to make sounds. Contestants will be allowed to use their grunt tubes to project calls. All grunt tubes must meet specifications as listed in the **calling devices/props** section of these rules.*

### **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 over two days in a head-to-head, bracketed format based on seeding similar to 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 the final four contestants are determined. At that point, the remaining four contestants in each division will advance to the second and final day to determine overall winners.

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.

### **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, July 22, 2020. NOTE: there are NO entry fees. The competition is open to any qualifying persons.

### **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 and Women's divisions, contestants will produce 3 specific calls at :15 each as directed, as well as a :30 freelance period for preliminary rounds, :45 for the finals. Caller 1 will produce the first specified call, then Caller 2 will produce the first specified call. Caller 1 will then produce the second specified call, then Caller 2 will produce the second specified call. Caller 1 will then produce the third specified call, followed by Caller 2 producing the third specified call. Caller 1 will then perform a freelance period, followed by Caller 2's freelance period.

The set of specific calls (both cow/calf and bull elk sounds) and video examples of each specific call will be released at least four weeks prior to the start of the contest. There will be 4 cow/calf calls and 3 bull calls to select from. Watch the video at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tq0dnd4zb54l0pt/AADrab9dtk9CHTYJ6OcaBsAoa?dl=0&preview=WECC+Audio+Guide.mp4>

There will be three random calls selected for each round. The specific calls for each round will be drawn prior to the round. The freelance period can be made up of any combination of cow, calf and/or bull calls.

Contestants in the Voice and Youth Divisions will not be required to draw specific calls. A maximum of 1 minute, 20 seconds will be allowed for each contestant (40 seconds for cow/calf sounds, 40 seconds for bull sounds). Each caller will be asked to produce both cow/calf sounds and bull elk sounds.

For the Pee Wee Division, a maximum of one minute will be allowed per contestant (30 seconds for cow/calf sounds, 30 seconds for bull sounds). Each caller will be asked to produce both cow/calf sounds and bull elk sounds.

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 Kokopelli Ballroom in the Grand Summit Hotel during RMEF Elk Camp & Mountain Festival. There is no fee to enter the Mountain Festival. Contestants will call in an area designated by the contest officials. During the competition for the Professional, Men's and Women's Divisions, 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 behind a screen that completely prevents them from seeing or identifying the contestants. This screen 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 80 points per contestant per judge (Pro, Men, Women) and 40 points total per contestant per judge (Voice, Youth, Pee Wee). 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 (7-0, 6-1, 5-2, 4-3). Contestants may receive their scorecards, if desired, after the competition.

## **WINNERS**

Once the field is whittled down to the final four contestants, the two semifinal head-to-head competitions will take place on Friday. At that time, the two competitors who lost in the semi-finals will first face off to determine the third and fourth place finishers. Then the semi-final winners will face off to determine the 2020 RMEF World Elk Calling Champion and the runner-up.

Winners of each division may also be invited to attend the Elk Camp Friday Night Banquet.

## **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 behind the screen. Each contestant will be announced by bracket and contestant number only. Names on the brackets will not be shared with the judges.

Example in the Professional, Men's and Women's Divisions: The announcer will ask the two contestants in bracket #1 to come up on stage, both contestants will take the stage on the designated side. Announcer will then say,

"Contestant #1...call number 1...Contestant #2...call number 1...Contestant #1...call number 2....  
Contestant #2...call number 2....Contestant #1...call number 3...Contestant #2...call number 3....  
Contestant #1...freelance call...Contestant #2...freelance call."

Example in the Voice, Youth and Pee Wee Divisions: The announcer will ask the two contestants in bracket #1 to come up to the stage, contestant 1 will take the stage on the designated side. Announcer will then say,  
"Contestant #1...cow calls...Contestant #1...bull calls. Announcer will then say, "Contestant #2...cow calls...  
Contestant #2...bull calls.

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

## **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  
Voice Division - \$2,000 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.

### **MANDATORY CONTESTANT CHECK-IN**

7:30 - 8:00 a.m., Thursday, July 23, 2020

RMEF Elk Camp & Mountain Festival

Kokopelli Ballroom, Grand Summit Hotel, 4000 Canyons Resort Drive, Park City, UT 84098

**Entrants must check in at this time, no exceptions.**

### **MANDATORY CONTESTANT MEETING**

9:00 a.m., Thursday, July 23, 2020

RMEF Elk Camp & Mountain Festival

Kokopelli Ballroom, Grand Summit Hotel, 4000 Canyons Resort Drive, Park City, UT 84098

### **PRELIMINARY ROUNDS**

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 23, 2020

RMEF Elk Camp & Mountain Festival

Kokopelli Ballroom, Grand Summit Hotel, 4000 Canyons Resort Drive, Park City, UT 84098

### **FINALS ROUNDS**

10:00 a.m. - NOON, (*Check-in at 9:30 a.m.*) Friday, July 24, 2020

RMEF Elk Camp & Mountain Festival

Kokopelli Ballroom, Grand Summit Hotel, 4000 Canyons Resort Drive, Park City, UT 84098

### **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.**