

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
2024 Minnesota Ducks Unlimited  
Duck and Goose Calling Championships**

**CONTEST RULES**

**Ducks Unlimited Youth Duck and Goose Calling Championships**

These contests are OPEN to any caller age sixteen (16) years and under. These contests will be judged on a “meat style duck” “open style goose” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Callers will be judged against others in the youth contest only! Judging will be done with either three or five judges...the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. Each caller will call a minimum of two rounds. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishers the ties will be broken.

**Bernie Boyle Regional Duck Calling Championship**

The Game Fair Regional Duck Calling Contest is a contest that is sanctioned by and a qualifier for the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. This contest is open to any caller who will have attained the age of seventeen (17) as of the hour of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in November of the current year. The contests will be judged on a “competition style” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) callers competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five callers, plus anyone tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishers the ties will be broken.

**Game Fair Regional Duck Calling Championship**

The Game Fair Regional Duck Calling Contest is a contest that is sanctioned by and a qualifier for the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. This contest is open to any caller who will have attained the age of seventeen (17) as of the hour of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in November of the current year. The contests will be judged on a “competition style” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) callers competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five callers, plus anyone tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishers the ties will be broken.

**Game Fair MN State Duck Calling Championship**

The Game Fair Regional Duck Calling Contest is a contest that is sanctioned by and a qualifier for the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest. This contest is open to any legal Minnesota Resident caller who will have attained the age of seventeen (17) as of the hour of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, November 25, 2017. The contests will be judged on a “competition style” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) callers competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five callers, plus anyone tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishers the ties will be broken.

### Ducks Unlimited NOVICE Goose Calling Championship

This contest is OPEN to any caller of any age and gender that has not won more than 5 contests or beaten a Pro Caller in an open contest. The contests will be judged on an “open style” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) callers competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five callers, plus anyone tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishers the ties will be broken.

### Ducks Unlimited OPEN Goose Calling Championship

This contest is OPEN to any caller of any age and gender. The contests will be judged on a “open style” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) callers competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five callers, plus anyone tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishers the ties will be broken.

### Ducks Unlimited Open Meat Duck Calling Championship

This contest is OPEN to any caller of any age and gender. The contests will be judged on a “meat style” routine, which will be ninety (90) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) teams competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five teams, plus any team tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishing contestants the ties will be broken.

### Ducks Unlimited 2-Man Live Goose Calling Championship

This contest is OPEN to any two (2) callers any age and gender. Contestants will be allowed to enter up to two (2) times each time with a different partner. The contests will be judged on a “live goose style” routine, which will be sixty (60) seconds maximum. Judging will be done with five judges....the high and low scores from each round will be thrown out and the remaining three scores totaled. There will be a minimum of three rounds of calling, with cuts made after rounds one and two at approximately 50% plus ties. In the event there should be more than thirty (30) teams competing, cuts may be increased to a rate of approximately 60% cut after rounds one and two. The final round in both cases will be a minimum of five teams, plus any team tied for fifth. In the event of a tie for any of the top five place finishing teams the ties will be broken.

### Additional Rules

#### Registration

Registration will be by official entry blank which can be obtained at the onsite registration or online starting in June. On-Site Registration will open at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday & Sunday. Events are expected to start at the time listed. However, times may be adjusted from previous contests that run past the set run time. Please arrive early for the contest you are competing in.

#### Order of Appearance of Contestants

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. The contestants in any callback, which the committee may require, will draw a new number before each appearance. Contestants shall be identified by number only until the conclusion of the contest. Contestants will not be permitted to leave the isolation area during the contest except when accompanied by a contest official. Smoking shall not be allowed in the isolation area.

There will be three (3) rounds of competition in each event. Cuts will be made after first and second rounds according to point standings. Regardless of the beginning contestant numbers, the top five (5) contestants will advance to the final round. Before determining those eligible for the final round and before determining a winner, the total number of points for each contestant will be determined by totaling the scores from all judges. The five (5) contestants with the highest scores after round two (2) will qualify for the final round. The top overall score after the final round shall be declared the contest winner. The next highest score wins second place and then the next highest score is the third place finisher, followed by the fourth place finisher and rounding off the 5 contestants will be the fifth place score. In all instances, the decision of the judges shall be final. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) place finisher of each contest will be required to blow a routine in front of the shooting area following the Tom Knapp Shooting Demo at 5:30 PM promptly on the day of the contest. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) place finisher will then receive their final payout.

### **Guidelines**

Callers may use any legal pneumatic call in any of the contests. No electronic equipment of any kind is allowed. No Flagging Devices of any kind will be allowed. For any reason contestants may be asked by the judges to repeat calls. No cell phones allowed in the isolated area (bullpen). The use of will be grounds for disqualification. There shall be no talking or communication in any form with anyone other than a contest official or contest competitor while inside the isolation area (bullpen) and only with a contest official while outside the isolation area (bullpen) during the contest. The use of alcoholic beverages or drugs will not be permitted during the competition. This or any other conduct unbecoming a sportsman, sports-woman, gentleman, or lady, as determined by the designated contest officials, said contestant will be disqualified. Ducks Unlimited Contest Committee reserves the right to interpret the application of the contest rules & policies. All rules subject to interpretation by Ducks Unlimited Contest Officials are final. Any questions please see a Ducks Unlimited Contest Official before the contest begins.

### **Method of Judging**

Contestants will be asked whether they want a “warm up” or not. Contestants must make no sound except for calling on stage, talking will result in elimination. Each time a contestant is permitted to call the time shall be limited (90 seconds)(60 seconds for a live). Any caller who blows over the time limit will be disqualified. A red signal light will be in view of the contestants. When a contestant is ready or asked to begin his or her call, and so indicates (by nodding), the timer will begin on first note. The light will remain off for one (1) minute and twenty (20) seconds or (50 seconds on a live contest), and will be turned ON in view of the contestant at the end of this time period. The contestant must complete the call within the next ten (10) second period. Failure to complete the call before the time (red light) goes off will disqualify the contestant from further competition in said event only. There will be a designated place (stage and/or blind) for the contestant to stand. Contestant must not walk past set boundaries or be subject to elimination. Judges will be located in such a manner that it is impossible for them to see and or identify any contestant except by caller number only. (Number announced by M.C.)

### **Scoring**

Scoring for contests is by a point system. First round scores are from 70 to 79 points, Second round is 80 – 89 points, and Third round is 90 – 99 points. (Points are accumulated with each round.) There are five (5) judges and the contestants high and low scores are thrown out each round. The remaining three are used for scoring. The decision of the three (3) judge’s accumulated scores will be the final score, per round. Remaining contestants moving to 2nd or 3rd round, scores are added with previous rounds. In the event of a tie after the last round, a call off will be between those in the stated tie for placement. Scoring will be from 90 to 99 points for each tying round. Decisions of the committee shall in all instances, be final.

### **Calling Routine Descriptions**

#### **Duck Calling**

**Main Street Style - 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.

**Meat Style - Calling using a hunting scenario (In other words, no ringing hail calls and no rolling feed calls). Mallard hen calling only. Judging shall be based upon contestant's ability to bring in a simulated flight of ducks using all of the following calls: 1) Hail call; 2) Mating or lonesome duck call; 3) Feed or chatter call; 4) Comeback call.**

#### **Goose Calling**

**Open Style -You are in a hunting blind and in the distance you see a flock of geese 8-12 in number. You should get their attention with a loud aggressive style hail call. As the birds turn toward you, at first you stay on them with some pretty hard/aggressive greeting calls to keep their attention so that they don't drift off. You now see that they are interested in your spread and tone (soften) down your greeting calls and start some ground work trying to display the realism and confidence it will take to get them to completely commit to your spread. As the birds are on the last pass right before you call the shot the birds flare off. At this point you hit them hard with your come back call to try to get them back and as they turn back to you, you use a toned down (soften) greeting call again, and finish them with some more ground work.**

**Live Style - Your interpretation of what geese do in the field, park, or lake. Realism is key. Sounds like geese.**

**The Contest Committee reserves the right to interpret the application of these rules and in all instances their decision shall be final.**

**Contest Committee**