



Brighton Optimist Club

Free Fishing Derby Rules

June 13, 2026, at the Brighton Mill Pond

The Optimist Free Fishing Derby is all about having fun and everyone remaining safe.

-  All anglers must be registered to participate in the Fishing Derby. A parent/guardian must register their children and sign a release form either online using the Optimist Web Site or in person the day of the event. If you registered online, you still need to check in and get your Fishing Derby ID badge.
-  Parents/Guardians must remain with their children during the derby.
-  There are three age groups: 5 and Under 6 to 10 11 to 16
-  Registration is open at 7:30 AM. Fishing starts at 8:00 AM. Fishing ends around 11:00 AM. A horn will sound to indicate the start and the end of fishing.
-  All fishing is Catch and Release. Three measuring stations are available to measure your fish.
-  All fish must be caught on hook and line. You may use worms, lures, or any bait legal in Michigan. The Optimist Club will provide worms for all anglers.
-  No stringers – fish on stringers do not count! Bring a bucket if you have one. The Optimist Club has a supply of buckets available, and we can lend you one if needed.
-  Parents can help but should not catch the fish. Adults can bait the hook, take the fish off, and in some cases, help cast depending on the age of your child.
-  Trophies are awarded by the length of the fish. All species of fish are eligible.
-  Only take your fish to the measuring station if you think it is larger than any that you have caught during the derby.
-  Largest Fish Trophy by Age Group – First, Second and Third place in each age group.
-  Largest Fish Overall Trophy – There is one trophy for the whole tournament for the largest fish.
-  Only fish caught in the Mill Pond during the derby will count. Ducks, geese, turtles, and alligators caught will not be counted.