

Revised: 1/27/2020

Note: These rules are pending board approval for the 2020 season

# MISSISSIPPI WALLEYE CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES

## *Tournament Entry*

1. All tournament anglers must be members of the Mississippi Walleye Club in good standing and at least 16 years of age to participate. With the permission of a parent or legal guardian. An angler under the age of 16 is eligible to fish in PICK tournaments only. Each angler must pay a \$20.00 entry fee prior to the start of each tournament. All entry fees are nonrefundable.
2. To be eligible to fish in a tournament, members must be signed up for the tournament by the director prior to the drawing of partners for DRAW tournaments or prior to the drawing of boat order for PICK tournaments. For PICK tournaments, prior to the selection of boat order, members may submit to the DRAW process to be matched with another club member to fish that event. Members may sign up for tournaments at the last regular club meeting before the tournament or may contact the tournament director via phone before the drawing occurs at the meeting. No members will be allowed to fish the tournament for any reason after the drawing has been completed. PICK Tournament teams may sign up the morning of the tournament. Any exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the executive board.
3. The Board will determine the ramp site and boundary waters for each tournament. Fishable waters extend from DAM to DAM and railroad TRACK to TRACK within a given river pool or within the boundary of a LAKE.
4. The tournament director and board members will determine the fishing hours (start time, return time) at the last regular club meeting before the tournament and will have the final say regarding fishing hours. All boats must be within view of the designated ramp site at the return time to avoid penalty or disqualification. Late is Late, you will be disqualified.
5. Two anglers will fish per boat as a team. The board will determine the method of partner selection for each tournament. Anglers may only fish with the same person in a PICK tournament once per year. Anglers under the age of 16 may fish in all PICK tournaments with their parent or legal guardian as their partner. If a decision on boat operation becomes a conflict, the angler that has the most fishermen of the year points will have their choice. A coin toss will be used if the anglers are tied for points for the year. You may only use 2 rods per angler.

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6. If an angler does not show up for a draw tournament, their partner may fish alone or they may receive a credit to a future tournament. If the angler does not have a boat, they can find one, but must return to the designated ramp site for weigh-in. The angler may also choose to fish with another angler in the tournament if the other angler is also fishing alone and they both agree to fish together.
7. If a team is late to the start of the tournament or chooses to start late in a tournament, the team must launch their boat from the tournament ramp site. Before the late team can start fishing, their boat must be inspected by another tournament boat.
8. A member of the board will check all live wells, coolers, and other areas of the boat they deem necessary at the ramp site prior to the start of the tournament. Any tournament boat that has weighable fish in it prior to the start of the tournament will be disqualified from all tournaments for the remainder of the year.
9. The boat starting order will be determined by a draw at the last regular club meeting prior to the tournament. The official start boat is usually the last boat number in the order. While traveling at idle speed, all boats must pass the start boat in order before accelerating on plane. Failure to do so will result in a weight penalty of 0.5 lbs.
10. The tournament director and board members have the final word on delaying the start time or cancellation of the tournament due to weather or any other unsafe boating conditions such as lack of sunlight or fog.

### ***Tournament Procedures***

11. Any protest against another team or team member must be filed verbally within 30 minutes after the last fish has been weighed. A written protest, signed by both team members, must be sent or handed to the club president within one week of the tournament date. The board will not act upon the protest unless the above criteria are met. All persons involved will be notified when the board will meet to make a decision on the protest. All persons involved will be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting. The board will make a final decision on the protest in a closed session.
12. Any tournament fish in a team's boat or possession that is not legal will result in the loss of that fish plus a one pound deduction.
13. According to 1994 state law, all tournament boats will have a live well that pumps in outside water. An aerated live well must have the capacity to pump fresh water into the live well and should be operated continuously during the tournament.

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14. Anglers should use common courtesy when fishing. An example would be to pull in behind another boat fishing a wing dam. The first boat at the wing dam shall determine how the dam will be fished and has right-of-way for the wing dam. No anchoring on a spot is allowed unless the boat anchoring is the right-of-way boat or unless all other anglers on the wing dam agree to allow the boat to anchor.
15. Each angler will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner by obeying all conservation laws, state and federal boating safety laws and extending courtesy to all individuals using tournament waters. All tournaments conducted in Pool 12 will comply with Iowa fishing rules and regulations. All anglers must wear life jackets at the start of the tournament. No alcohol may be consumed during tournament hours. Person or persons found guilty of violating any of these laws will be disqualified from that tournament and could be expelled from all future tournaments.
16. It is complementary for the two anglers (boater, non-boater) to share or split the expenses associated with participating in the tournament including fishing prior to the tournament and the day of the tournament. Typical expenses include bait, boat gas, vehicle gas, engine oil and lodging (if required).
17. If a team wants to pull out of a tournament early, the team must contact the tournament director, Mr. Lance Kirby (563-580-0154), or club president, Mr. BJ Eiben (563-542-6864) or another tournament boat either verbally or by a note before leaving. One of the anglers from the team must be at the weigh-in to qualify for the tournament. If this is not followed, both parties may be disqualified for the next tournament.
18. All fishing must be done from a tournament registered boat with the fish being brought to the boat, by hook and line method, hooked forward of the gill plate. Willow cats may not be used in tournaments.
19. No electronic communication between two anglers, teams or any other fisherman is allowed during the tournament.
20. Any point not covered will be considered and decided upon by the board. All rules have loopholes. In the interest of good sportsmanship, anglers are reminded that the spirit of the rule will prevail in all cases requiring judgment or interpretation of a rule.

### ***Weigh Tournament Procedures***

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21. The tournament director, (or designated representative) will conduct the weigh-in. No tournament fish may be kept by an angler unless it is a trophy fish. Anglers are encouraged to release all fish alive.
22. All fish will be measured, weighed and identified one team at a time at the weigh in immediately after the boats have been removed from the water. All fish will be measured with the mouth closed and be measured to be as long as possible. The official tournament ruler is the Lake Borne Tackle "The Judge Tournament Ruler". Fish will only be measured on the official tournament ruler provided by the board. No exceptions. Legal weighable tournament fish are: Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye. Walleyes, Saugers and Saugeyes must be a minimum of 15 inches in length. Saugeyes will be considered a Walleye and will follow Walleye rules, regulations and awards.
23. A maximum of twelve (12) Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye are allowed in a boat's live well during the tournament. No culling of fish is allowed during the tournament. Only five fish may be brought to the scale to be weighed. Extra fish must be released before the boat is removed from the water. No dead fish may be released or culled. All dead fish must be brought to the weigh-in. The team will be penalized a half a pound for each dead fish at weigh-in.

### ***Catch, Record, Release (CRR) Tournament Procedures***

24. One partner holds the fish on the official The Judge Ruler. The belly of the fish will face the person measuring the fish. The mouth of the fish MUST touch the bump plate on the ruler to the LEFT (Head to Left), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length on the RIGHT end of the ruler (Tail to the Right).
25. The partners agree on the length of the fish to 1/4th inch accuracy. If the tail fin touches or crosses a graduation line on the ruler, the official length of the fish for scoring purposes may be lengthened to the next one quarter (1/4th) of an inch line on the ruler.
26. While the fish is being held on the ruler, a "scoring" photo must be taken of the fish which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The HEAD and TAIL of the fish must be included and clearly show. The photograph must be taken of the LEFT side of the fish ONLY (belly towards the angler holding the fish, head to the left). A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, and the left side of the fish on the ruler WILL NOT BE SCORED. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed.
27. Another photo MUST be taken of the fish being held up by a partner. This "hero shot" photo MUST show the entire RIGHT side of the fish. These photos will be used for

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technical evaluation and may be used on stage during the awards ceremony or posted to Mississippi Walleye Club media outlets (web, Facebook, etc.)

28. The fish must then be immediately released back into the water by the partner holding the fish.
29. Record the length of the fish on the Official Scorecard and both partners should validate the length recorded for accuracy.
30. In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the CRR process requires that one fish must be measured, photographed, and released as quickly as possible before the next fish can be processed
31. NO fish are to be placed in the livewell. It is NOT permissible to hold fish in water using nets, lines, stringers, etc. Delays in releasing fish may be grounds for disqualification.
32. In order to speed up the CRR process, while a fish is in the boat, anglers will NOT be allowed to reset or place any fishing lines in the water. After all fish are processed and released, normal angling may resume.
33. When the team returns to the launch site they are to turn in the Official Scorecard and the SD memory card.
34. The Tournament Weigh Master will convert the recorded entries into weight and are the results recorded for the team. The top teams and big fish will be reviewed via the SD cards before the results are certified by the Weigh Master.
35. Any discrepancies discovered upon correlation of submitted score cards will be reviewed by a quorum of the Mississippi Walleye Club Board and appropriate action will be taken which may be as severe as suspension of the anglers involved of future tournaments.

### ***Tournament Awards and Points System***

36. Winning a tournament will be determined by total weight. Second place will be determined by the second highest total weight. The team with the largest fish will break any ties. If there is still a tie, the points will be shared by both teams.
37. For tournaments with 15 boats or less, trophies will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. For tournaments with more than 15 boats, trophies will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

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38. To maintain season long interest, a trophy will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Walleye and largest Sauger caught during the tournament season.

39. Points will be awarded according to the following system

15 Points – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	10 Points – 6 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 Points – 11 <sup>th</sup> Place
14 Points – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	9 Points – 7 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 Points – 12 <sup>th</sup> Place
13 Points – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	8 Points – 8 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 Points – 13 <sup>th</sup> Place
12 Points – 4 <sup>th</sup> Place	7 Points – 9 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 Points – 14 <sup>th</sup> Place
11 Points – 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 Points – 10 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 Point – All other places

- a. One point will be given to both team members for the biggest fish of the day. If there is a tie for the biggest fish of the day, each angler on each team will receive one point.
- b. Each angler will receive one point for fishing the tournament.
- c. Fisherman of the year will be determined by using the highest four tournament point totals for the year.
- d. New members who have not fished more than one club tournament in prior years and who is 18 year of age or older is eligible for Rookie of the Year award. An angler is eligible after they turn 18 even if they have fished a club tournament before.
- e. If there is a tie for rookie of the year, the total weight of fish caught for the year will determine the winner.
- f. If there is a tie for fisherman of the year or any other year-end placing, the tie will be broken by using the greater number of 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes. If there is still a tie, the greater number of 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes will be used. If there is still a tie, the greater number of 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes will be used and so on until the tie is broken. Only the angler's four highest tournament scores will be used to break the tie.

If the greater number of finishes still results in a tie, the greater total weight will be used. Only weights from the four highest tournaments scores will be used. Weights from tournaments not included in the four highest tournament scores will not be used. In the event that the angler's fourth, fifth or sixth highest tournament scores are equal; the tournament score with the greater weight will be used for the fourth highest score.

For anglers who participated in less than four tournaments, ties will be broken using the greater number of tournaments fished.

- g. All points will be final after the next club meeting following the tournament.

## ***Cabela's NTC Qualifying***

*Each year The Walleye Federation (TWF) will grant each of its member clubs a number of entry positions into the Cabela's National Team Championship (NTC). This tournament is announced late in the year for the coming year.*

40. To fish the Cabelas Team Championship as someone's partner, a person must be a member in good standing by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the qualifying year. Membership waiver and dues must be received by the treasurer by June 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. If no club members want to go to the NTC as a partner, club member can pick a non-club partner.
41. The NTC entries will be offered to members in order of their standings for Angler of the Year (AOY).
42. Teams are responsible for all expenses, with the exception of the next item.
43. The following monetary awards will be reimbursed by the Mississippi Walleye Club to be used towards the Cabela's NTC tournament entry fee of club members only. The award is based on the highest AOY ranking,
  - a. Highest AOY angler - \$150
  - b. Highest AOY angler's co-angler - \$150
  - c. Second highest AOY angler - \$100
  - d. Second highest AOY angler's co-angler - \$100

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have received and read the  
(Print Name)

Tournament Rules of the Mississippi Walleye Club.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return to Mr. Lance Kirby- Tournament Director