

# 2018 MONTANA GOVERNOR'S WALLEYE TOURNAMENT RULES

**1. Eligibility:** Any applicant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult (18 and over) partner and have signature of parent or legal guardian on application. There will be no more than 200 teams fishing in the tournament. The tournament directors and committee reserve the right to refuse entry to any individual before, during, and after the tournament. We ENCOURAGE applicants to be members of Montana Walleye's Unlimited.

**2. Rules Meeting:** At least one team member MUST attend the rules meeting on the evening prior to the beginning of the tournament at 5:00 p.m. at Kiwanis Park, Fort Peck, Montana. Pre-fishing is not permitted after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday; violators will be disqualified from the tournament.

**3. Regulations/Insurance:** Each entrant must possess a valid Montana fishing license. All contestants must observe U.S. Coast Guard and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park's rules and regulations. A Minimum of \$100,000 liability insurance is recommended of all contestants.

**4. Teams:** Contestants must enter as **two-person teams**. Tournament officials must approve any change of team members and a new application must be completed by the team and signed.

**5. Tournament Headquarters:** Tournament headquarters will be located at the Fort Peck Marina in Fort Peck, Montana (unless otherwise stated).

**6. Fishing Area:** Fishing will be allowed only within the boundaries of the tournament area as described on a map which will be provided to each team prior to the contest.

**7. Tournament Hours:** Tournament hours are 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. In the event the competition is cancelled on either Friday or Saturday, Sunday will become a "make-up" day.

**8. Inspection:** Boats will receive an inspection each day prior to launching and receive the scorecard for that day. All boats in the tournament must display identifying marking provided by tournament officials. All tournament boats maybe subject to an inspection by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks prior to tournament start for exotic plant and aquatic species. No boat may have walleye on board prior to the fishing tournament.

**9. Tackle:** Artificial and live baits are allowed. Each contestant may fish with up to two lines at a time. Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat.

**10. Boat Operations:** All teams must depart by boat from the starting area under the direction of the tournament officials. The order of departure will begin with a randomly selected team number and be reversed on the second day. Cellular phones/text messaging, CB's or marine band radios may not be used to relay tournament fishing information and should be used for emergency transmissions only during tournament hours.

**11. Fishing:** The tournament will be operated as a "Catch and Release" format. Fish may be measured at patrol boats. A dead fish will receive zero weight. Fish length will be recorded, and the fish released if alive and in releasable condition. Any live walleye 24-inches or longer can be tagged and kept as a trophy with no penalty. **The same rules will apply for Big Fish Northern.** Teams will not be allowed more than 5 fish in the boat at any time, excluding the Wee Walleye (Under 10 inches). Sauger and Saugeye must be released immediately as they are a species of special concern and may not be in your possession during the tournament. Non-releasable fish (i.e. dead fish) will be tagged, counted in the 5-fish maximum through the rest of the day and counted as a zero on the score card.

**12. Scoring:** There is a 14.25-inch minimum length requirement for any walleye caught. The length of the fish must hit the 14-inch mark to be scored a legal fish. There will be no 14-inch fish shown on weigh cards. Daily scores will be the total measurement converted to weight of up to 5 walleyes. These 5 will be selected by the team from all the fish measured and recorded for that day. The 5 selected MUST INCLUDE any TAGGED FISH.

**13. Checking in/Late Penalty:** All boats must be checked in each day with the officials on the official check-in boat at the appointed time even if no fish were caught. Any boat checking in with the official check-in boat up to 15 minutes past the appointed time will be penalized 50% of the day's catch weight and will be eliminated from all big fish prizes for that day. Boats checking in OVER 15 minutes past the appointed time will completely be disqualified for the day and eliminated from all day money and big fish pots.

**14. Scorecards:** ALL scorecards must be turned in by 4PM at tournament headquarters regardless of flight time. Scorecards turned in after 4PM will be disqualified for the day and eliminated from all day money and big fish pots. If a team chooses to quit early, they MUST turn in their weigh cards to the tournament headquarters and NOT to weigh boats.

**15. Spirit of the Rule:** It is the intention of this tournament to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Interpretation of the rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament officials; ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL!

**16. Sportsmanship and Conduct:** ALL contestants are required to follow a high standard of safety, sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. Any infraction of these principles may be deemed for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to angling and boating in the vicinity of the tournament. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon the MT Gov Cup Tournament's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, will be reason for disqualification. Examples of non-compliant standards include:

a. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh in process.

b. Any previous conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation for a felony, a crime involving moral wickedness, or a crime related to any fishing tournament will not be accepted.

c. Words or actions which reflect unfavorably upon the efforts to promote the safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition of our tournament;

d. Disqualifications from other fishing organizations and tournaments that resulted from rule violations will not be accepted.

The Montana Governor's Cup Walleye tournament director and committee reserves the right to place an official observer in the Contestant's boat at any time during the tournament hours.

**19. Protest Policy:** Only contestants and tournament officials have the right to protest the actions of another team or contestant. Protests by contestants must be filed in writing to a tournament director. The committee will convene to investigate and make a decision regarding the protest. **Protests must be made to a tournament director, no later than 30 minutes after results are posted.** A \$100 protest fee must accompany any protest offered by a contestant. The protest fee will NOT be refunded if the protest is found to be invalid. Any person found violating the rules may be immediately disqualified and the reasons for said disqualification announced at the Tournament Headquarters area.

**19. Marine Band Radio:** Radios are recommended in participants' boats both days for everyone's safety and check-in and penalty purposes. Any team experiencing mechanical difficulties (i.e. dead in water) will radio to patrol boats for assistance. Official tournament channel is channel #22.

**20. Withdrawal Policy:** Entry fee refunds will be made only if the team gives written notification of withdrawal 2 weeks prior to the tournament starting date.

**21. Weather:** Sustained winds of 25 mph or greater at the start of the day of fishing will result in a delayed start, no later than 9:00 a.m. or a cancellation that day. The cancelled day will be made up on Sunday.

**22. Entry Fee:** Must be paid in full two weeks prior to tournament. If you are mailing in your payment, it must be postdated two weeks prior to the Thursday Rules Meeting. We encourage that Big Fish and Day Money be paid up front as well. If we have not received your payment by that Thursday, plan on paying at Thursday's Rules Meeting.