

## 2019 WWA Open Event Regulations

### Standard Communication With Anglers

All communication, outside of tournament hours, from the Board of the World Walleye Association (WWA), is via the WWA Facebook page. Communication can include, but is not limited to, changes in tournament start or end times, tournament cancellation or reschedules, important registration deadlines, dates of rules meetings, or special tournament rule changes. It is the responsibility of anglers fishing in WWA events to monitor the WWA Facebook page to stay up to date.

### Tournament Fees and Payouts

This is an Open event, no WWA membership fees required. Entry fees are \$309 per team (includes processing fees). Payouts are paid to the top 20% of field regardless of number of boats. Payout sample is available on worldwalleye.com. \$850 held back from purse for operating expenses/awards, subject to a minimum of 19 boats. OPTIONAL \$50 Big Fish Sidepot available during check-in/inspection, pays out 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>. OPTIONAL \$100 Finish Order Sidepot available during check-in/inspection, pays out 20% of the entrants. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Boat order will be determined via random lottery that will occur at the conclusion of the rules meeting 6/8/19 and will be streamed on Facebook Live. No refund or credit will be extended to teams that choose not to fish due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances except as approved by tournament officials.

### Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's NTC Berth

The WWA will be awarding a 2020 Bass Pro Shops /Cabela's NTC berth to the highest finishing team. That team must be active with The Walleye Federation (TWF) and WWA at the time of the WWA Open event. Winners will be subject to verification of both entities. Both team members are required to meet this restriction in order to be eligible. If the winning team is not eligible, the next eligible highest finishing team will be awarded the berth. You are not obligated to join the TWF or the WWA to fish this event, however, you will not be eligible for the NTC berth. This berth is not a paid berth; winners will be responsible for the TWF NTC entry fees.

### TWF Sidepots

TWF Sidepot will also be available and is optional, providing an opportunity for a team to win a paid entry to 2020 Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's NTC. There must be at least 10 teams registered for a sidepot to be eligible. A \$50 entry per boat is required and boats must be registered online on the TWF website by 4pm the day before tournament. If there aren't 10 entries for a particular tournament, the entry money can be rolled to the next tournament or refunded by the TWF.

## **Registration**

Payments are to be made through our website at [www.worldwalleye.com](http://www.worldwalleye.com). Registration includes a processing fee. Deadline for registration is Saturday at the conclusion of the rules meeting. Every angler must submit a Liability Waiver. Cash only accepted at the meeting. Online registration is encouraged.

## **Participation**

The WWA reserves the right to refuse entry or participation to any team or team member. Reasons include but not limited to: suspension, disqualification or a ban from another tournament series, violation of game, local, federal or state regulations and laws and unsportsmanlike or criminal behavior. Participants will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times; any unfavorable conduct by a participant may result in disqualification (DQ) or rejection of entry. Anglers must be presentable, with no tobacco, alcohol or undesirable attire being worn while on stage. All boats are required and agree to carry a minimum of \$100,000.00 liability insurance on any boat operated during a WWA event. Any person under the age of 18 must be teamed with a parent or guardian.

## **Teams**

Each team consists of no more than two anglers. The first person listed on the entry form will be declared the team leader and main contact for the WWA. The WWA must be notified 5 days prior to the event if a registered team is changing a partner. The WWA reserves the right to amend this rule based on extenuating circumstances and will be treated on a case by case scenario.

## **Ties**

In case of a tie, positions will be determined as follows: 1. Most number of legal fish weighed at event. 2. Heaviest single fish. 3. Any other means selected by tournament officials.

## **Boat Inspection, Motor and Safety Equipment**

Inspections will take place at the launch area beginning 1-hour prior to take off. All teams must have their compartments open and are responsible for making sure they are inspected and have received a boat card. All teams fishing the tournament are required to have an identifying ribbon attached to the front of the boat. Any boat entering into competition without first being inspected may be disqualified. Any boat not inspected and checked in prior to 6:45 am, will have to be inspected after the 7:00 am take off is complete. All tournament boats are required by law to have in their possession Coast Guard and state/local/federal required safety equipment and be in proper working order. In addition, a functioning bilge pump or bailing device is required. Contestants must wear a coast guard approved PFD and use the engine safety stop switch at all times while the main engine is operated above trolling speed. Tournament boats may be inspected at any time for compliance.

### **Take off and Return**

Send-off begins at 7:00 am and all boats are due back within site of the Timekeeper by 3:10 pm unless otherwise stated. Under no circumstances may any contestant have a line in the water after 3:00 pm; doing so would result in a DQ for the day. Boats must line up prior to take off and will be sent out in order starting with boat #1 with each boat showing their boat card when their number is called. Any boat leaving before being called may result in a DQ.

### **Boat Check In**

Check in will be located within site of the takeoff location. Boats must check in and return their boat card to the bump master regardless of whether they have fish to weigh or not. Teams that are up to five minutes late will lose 1/2 of their weight; teams five minutes, or more, late will lose all of their weight.

### **Boundaries**

Tournament boundaries for the Fox Chain of Lakes are from the IL / WI Border in the North Fox River, to the Algonquin Dam in the South Fox River and includes all navigable water in-between. Any restricted fishing areas will be announced prior to take off on the morning of the tournament. Boats must remain in tournament waters at all times during tournament.

### **Contestant Regulations**

Contestants may use up to three rods per angler, with a combination of no more than four baits or lures in total per angler unless further restricted by state and local regulations. All contestants must possess a valid fishing license for the state of Illinois. WWA memberships are not required for the Open event. Contestants are responsible for notifying the Bump Master if they have a big fish to weigh and will choose which fish is to be weighed. Only fish caught on hook and line in a normal and usual manner will be accepted. All fish must be kept in aerated live wells. Any fish mauled, frozen, injected, showing white gills or soft flesh may result in a DQ at the discretion of the tournament official. Any team violating a state regulation may be disqualified.

Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a physician) is strictly prohibited during tournament hours. In the day prior to the start of any tournament, WWA participants may no longer be fishing and must be off the water or within site of the boat launch by 5pm local time. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency if they wish their fish to be counted for the day. In the case of an emergency or break down in which anglers are not able to return to the weigh in, anglers must contact the tournament officials. Arriving late because of offering assistance or of breakdown is still late and all penalties apply. Sharing of fishing information with other contestants during tournament hours is strictly prohibited.

## **Meetings**

At least one person from each team must be present at the rules and safety meeting prior to fishing the event. The meeting will be scheduled the evening prior to the event at 5:00 pm and will be announced on Facebook. This meeting will be held at the Port of Blarney unless otherwise communicated on the WWA Facebook. All members must sign the release form as part of the registration prior to fishing the event. IRS Form W9's will be issued to winners of >\$599 for this event.

## **Fish Regulations**

Walleye, sauger and saugeye are permitted where allowed by state or local laws unless otherwise stated. Teams will weigh their 6 best fish with a length determined by local state regulations with a length not under 14". There may not be more than 6 fish in a contestant's live well at any time. Any variation from size or bag limits may result in a DQ. The Fox Chain has a protected slot limit of 18" to 24" and these fish must be released. The official ruler of the WWA is the Judge; measuring of fish on any other ruler may not be a true measurement and may result in the contestants' disqualification. Measuring of fish will be done in accordance with the American Fisheries Society standards; mouth closed, and the tail pinched. A legal 14" fish must touch the 14" line, A fish that touches the 18" line is considered in the protected slot and must be released and a 24" fish must extend beyond the 24" line. The Bump Master's decision is final.

## **Penalty Weights**

All WWA tournaments will be conducted as "catch and release" unless otherwise required by state or local law. Teams are allowed to cull unless otherwise restricted by local regulations. A 0.2 tenths penalty will be assessed to each fish deemed un-releasable. To be deemed releasable, a fish must be able to swim and maintain itself in a normal upright position. The WWA recommends the use of live well additives to promote a healthy release and the use of ice to cool live well water during warm weather days. Tournament officials shall have the sole authority for accessing penalty points.

## **Disqualification (DQ)**

Teams disqualified (DQ) from an event will lose all of their fish weight for the event. Tournament Officials can DQ a team for any violation of the regulations, such as (but not limited to): Unfavorable conduct in a tournament, having a line in the water after the end of tournament hours, leaving the takeoff early or prior to your boat number being called, bringing a fish to the scale that appears altered, exceeding the bag limit, having a fish that is outside of the length regulations, refusal to submit to or pass a polygraph test, or being given a ticket or citation from any law enforcement agency during tournament hours.

## **Protests**

Any tournament official or participant has a right to protest another team. An official written protest must

accompany a \$200 fee and be made with a tournament official within 10 minutes of completion of weigh in. A protest committee will be formed and will consist of the 1st, 5th and 10th place teams for the event unless they are involved in the protest. Should one of these teams be involved, the next place down will be the replacement team. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made and the fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. All participants agree to a polygraph test if they are requested and interpretation of any truth verification test shall be at the sole discretion of the tournament officials. Refusal to submit to or failure to pass will result in a DQ. Tournament Officials shall act as the referee in all disputes and their decision based on their interpretation of the rules will be final and without legal appeal.

### **Communication Devices**

The use of any communication device other than in emergency situations is prohibited. Marine Band radios are encouraged; boats with marine band radios will tune to channel 72 for announcements and the National Anthem. After take-off, only emergency channel 16 may be monitored. Cell phones and any other communication devices must be turned off during tournament hours, but may be used for safety or emergency calls to Tournament Officials. Text messaging and any other form of mobile device communication is also prohibited without prior approval from the Director. Any variation from this rule may result in a disqualification.

### **Weather**

Contestants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except with approval of the tournament director or during severe or unsafe weather. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning and severe weather or unsafe conditions, contestants may pull into the nearest shoreline and seek shelter until it is safe to continue fishing. Tournament fishing hours may be shortened or canceled due to weather or unforeseen circumstances at the Tournament Official's discretion. WWA reserves the right to cancel the event and/or reschedule the event. If the event is canceled and cannot be rescheduled, the WWA will refund entry fees to contestants.

### **Awards**

The awards ceremony will take place approximately one-half hour after the weigh-in. Tournament Officials will interpret rules and regulations according to the spirit and intent of the rule and the decision in all disputes is final. All other rules or regulations will revert to the standard policy of the WWA.