

2025 **New** Regulations

Summary

- **New For 2025**

- **Catch Photo Release Format**
- All fish will be entered via the Fish Donkey App
- Official Bump Board is The Judge
- Traditional morning inspections at Haling's, take-off will remain
- App will open at 7am, close at 3pm
- Teams will not be required to race in to check in at 3:10pm
- We will still have a weigh-in, teams in the money will be called up in reverse order and interviewed. We will display pictures of their catches throughout the day

CPR Rules

Every scorable fish will require 3 elements:

1. Bump – “Belly-to-belly” - Belly towards the angler bumping fish, mouth closed, no fingers or hands in or around the mouth or in the gills, nose touching bump, with the tail pinched with the measurement increments visible on your board. **A FISH THAT TOUCHES AN INCREMENT LINE, BUT DOES NOT CROSS OVER THAT LINE SHOULD BE ENTERED AS IT IS MEASURED. IF THE TAIL CROSSES THE INCREMENT LINE, ENTER TO THE NEXT ¼”. Example: A fish measuring 14.125” should be entered as 14.25”.** A fish measuring 14” should be entered as 14”.

2. Hero Shot – pickup the fish exactly how it lays and show the camera the other side of the fish. This is the side of the fish that was touching the bump board.

3. Release Video - Release video is required after a picture of the fish on the board and a hero shot.

2025 WWA Regulations

Binder

Teams competing in a sanctioned World Walleye, NFP (WWA) event are bound by the rules herein unless otherwise announced by Tournament Directors.

Standard Communication With Members

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, eligibility for Championship or Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops NTC spots, 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

All anglers pay annual membership fees for the WWA and The Walleye Federation (TWF) of \$35 and \$40, respectively (including processing fees). Anglers under the age of 16 are exempt from TWF portion. Entry fees are \$200 per team (includes processing fees), which includes big fish award. \$10 per Angler, per Qualifier will be set aside for a special Championship Bonus. Payouts are 85% with 10% of every entry fee withheld for the championship. Entrees will be accepted on a first come, first served basis until the event is full (60 boats). The WWA may accept up to 10% overbooking for any tournament with the exception of special events. 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.

TWF Sidepots

Sidepots are a voluntary option in each Qualifier Tournament, providing an opportunity for a team to win a paid entry to 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 notify officials and pay fee by cutoff to qualify. 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 made through the Fish Donkey app must be received no later than 5 days prior to an event (i.e. 5pm on Tuesday prior to a Sunday Qualifier) to avoid late fee. Late registrations may be made up to the night prior to an event; teams will incur a \$40 late payment fee with no exceptions made. However, as the TWF membership fees have to be processed online by the WWA, it is important to pay for these at the beginning of the season, or at least 5 days prior to an event.

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 may consist of up to three team members (two per event). Teams do not need to declare a third team member until needed. However, as the TWF membership fees have to be processed online by the WWA, it is important to pay for these at the beginning of the season, or at least 5 days prior to an event. No member may fish on more than one team; any request for partner substitutions other than the three-person team is at the discretion of tournament officials. Should a team member split off and form a new team, the new team will start with zero points and the accumulated points will stay with the original team. The original team will then be a two-person team for the balance of the season without the ability to add a substitute. Should the original team decide to split and form new teams, the new teams will start with zero points or should they split and become part of existing teams, those teams' points will zero out. The first person listed on the entry form will be declared the team leader and main contact for the WWA.

Points

Teams earn points, which are awarded from each qualifier tournament fished. Teams' top 4 scores will be used to determine points and standings. The team with the highest point total will be awarded "Team of the Year" prizes. Points are distributed to teams and may not be transferred in the event of partner changes. Points are awarded as follows: 400 points to the 1st place team, Points decrease in two-point increments by place of finish for teams weighing fish. 5 points will also be added for each fish weighed. Entered teams that do not weigh fish are awarded 100 show points. Should a team get a DQ, they will lose all points for the event. All FishDonkey submissions will be entered into the app by length, then automatically converted to weight. Tournaments will be scored by aggregate weight of each teams total bag. Teams will be ranked by heaviest to lightest bag by weight.

Championship

The Championship will be a 2-day event with the cumulative weights being scored. If you win a Qualifier and fish at least 4 events, you will earn an automatic berth into the Championship. The field will consist of the top 20 teams in the standings, plus any teams that won a Qualifier that fall outside the top 20. It is possible to have a 25 boat field if no teams inside the top 20 win a Qualifier. No Cut. Teams 11-20x will lose their entry fee to the Championship purse.

Note: 2024 Championship will likely be 2024 rules and live weigh-in unless otherwise announced. We may bring it to a vote to see if teams want to fish under CPR format.

Ties

In case of a tie, positions will be determined as follows: 1. Most number of legal fish weighed at event. 2. Most legal fish weighed to date. 3. Heaviest total weighed of all events to date of that season. 4. Heaviest bag weighed to date. 5. 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 receive 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 PDF 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. 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. Fish Donkey app will not allow submissions after 3:00pm. All lines are to be out of the water at 3:00pm. Teams should head towards the launch, but there is no timed check-in, no need to race back in.

Breakdowns

In the event of a breakdown, team must notify tournament officials via phone call to one of the designated phone numbers of officials. If you are not able to reach a official, you must leave a voicemail to document the time, circumstances and safety conditions. We no longer have live fish in livewells to deal with so this is all about safety.

Boat Check In

Check in will be located within site of the takeoff location. Boats must check in and return their boat card to tournament officials regardless of whether they have fish to weigh or not. Boats not returning their boat card prior to the end of weigh in may result in a forfeit of show points and or placement points

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 days.

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/states fished along with a valid WWA membership. WWA memberships are not required for the Youth/Family days. 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. A fish deemed to be a duplicate fish may be subject to DQ at the discretion of tournament officials. 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 – See “Breakdowns” paragraph outlining procedure] Sharing of fishing information with other contestants during tournament hours is strictly prohibited.

Meetings

At least one person from each team must be present for one mandatory rules and safety meeting prior to fishing in an event. There will be one meeting scheduled well before the start of the season and we may elect to have rules meetings scheduled the evening prior to an event at 5:00 pm. These meetings will be held at Haling's unless otherwise communicated on the WWA Facebook or Web page. Late registrations will be taken after the meetings. In the case that you are unable to attend, other arrangements must be made with tournament officials. All members must sign an annual release form prior to fishing in an 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 minimum scoring length of 14". There may not be any fish in a contestant's live well at any time. The Fox Chain has a protected slot limit of 18" to 24", these fish are eligible for entry under CPR format. All fish over 14" are now legal for entry.

Catch-Photo-Release Fish Entry Procedures

Every scorable fish will require 3 elements:

- 1. Bump** –“Belly-to-belly” - Belly towards the angler bumping fish, mouth closed, no fingers or hands in or around the mouth or in the gills, nose touching bump, with the tail pinched with the measurement increments visible on your board. **A FISH THAT TOUCHES AN INCREMENT LINE, BUT DOES NOT CROSS OVER THAT LINE SHOULD BE ENTERED AS IT IS MEASURED. IF THE TAIL CROSSES THE INCREMENT LINE, ENTER TO THE NEXT ¼". Example: A fish measuring 14.125" should be entered as 14.25".** A fish measuring 14" should be entered as 14".
- 2. Hero Shot** – pickup the fish exactly how it lays and show the camera the other side of the fish. This is the side of the fish that was touching the bump board.
- 3. Release Video** - Release video is required after a picture of the fish on the board and a hero shot.

Penalty Weights

If an entry cannot be verified by tournament directors, the team will lose that fish from their creel. Example: 6 fish bag becomes 5 fish bag for score. We will not be adding back a fish from your day to make it 6 fish bag.

Disqualification (DQ)

Teams disqualified (DQ) from an event will lose all their points for the event, including participation points. 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, [having fish in their livewell](#), [intentional deception of fish scoring equipment](#), 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

Protest policy relates to infractions that occur on the water during tournament hours. 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 decide based on their interpretation of the rules will be final and without legal appeal. Not all violations are subject to protest rule. The Board reserves the right to review any situation on a case by case basis even after weigh-in has been closed with the best interests in maintaining the integrity of the WWA.

Communication Devices

The use of any communication device to communicate with other anglers or surrogates during tournament hours 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 may not be used for any purpose other than Radar, Trolling Apps, GPS or an emergency. 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.

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.

Integrity

Any team(s) participating in any WWA events may be subject to an independent polygraph test or voice stress analysis at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Failure of this test will result in disqualification, as well as lifetime ban from any future WWA events.



Tournament Cancellation Guidelines

1. WWA Board is to notify membership of looming weather or any other potential hazard that may affect a tournament by Tuesday the week leading into event and provide a daily update every day after. All communications are to be posted on WWA Facebook page.
2. WWA Board must factor in all economic factors, consult with members and those affected by cancellation prior to making any decisions. WWA Board may elect to summon 3 random boat numbers to discuss situation to gain perspective of membership and to communicate factors facing WWA Board.
3. **Scheduled tournaments will take place** as long as the Fox Watery Agency (FWA) has the Fox Chain 'O Lakes (Chain) **OPEN** for boating. This includes situations of "low water" and "high water". A tournament will only be postponed or cancelled if the FWA has closed the Chain to all boating during tournament hours. If the FWA were to close the Chain to all boats after the start of the tournament, the tournament would only be official and include a weigh-in if 6 hours of fishing time had elapsed. Less than 6 hours would be a cancelled event and Board would determine if a makeup date would be re-scheduled. If a makeup is not scheduled, entry fees would be returned. Teams have option to roll fees to another event.
4. **Severe weather during event:** *The cell phone rules have been amended (see official rules).* The primary contact for each team is the member listed first on registration. The Board will send a mass text to primary team contacts warning of severe weather situations and inform teams whether to take cover during a smaller cell situation or in the event of a dangerous situation to **CANCEL** the event. This text will be followed by a transmission on VHF radio on channel #72 and it is requested that teams with VHF radios to please repeat notifications so boats farther away can receive. If an event is cancelled during tournament hours, no weigh-in will take place. The Board will determine if a make-up will be scheduled. If a make up is not rescheduled, entry fees will be returned. Teams have option to roll fees to another event.