



All events sanctioned by the Northern Ontario Walleye Trail (NOWT) must adhere to the following criteria's as a minimum. Hosts may develop their rules and eligibility as required.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT AND ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Tournaments sanctioned by The Northern Ontario Walleye Trail (NOWT) follow a two (2) day – two (2) person team format.
 - a. **ANGLER REPLACEMENT PROVISIONS** - If, after competition has started and a team member is unable to compete because of medical, family or other justified reasons, the remaining team member will be given the option to replace the leaving team member with another angler or finish the tournament alone. If the angler chooses to continue to fish alone, they must abide by Ontario fishing regulations (they can only retain to a maximum of one fish over 46cm and three under 46cm). If the angler chooses to replace the missing angler, the replacement angler must not have been on tournament waters during competition. The Tournament Director must approve all angler replacements.
- 2) Entry fee – \$250 PER TEAM of 2
- 3) Winners determined by the largest combined two (2) day weight.
- 4) Fishing hours – **day 1 8am to 4pm / day 2 8am to 2pm**
- 5) Disqualification from the tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee. No Refunds or credits extended to teams that choose not to fish due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances.
- 6) No tournament boat is allowed pre-fishing effective at 7:00pm on the Friday before the tournament.
- 7) The Tournament Directors retain the right to change and/or amend these rules at their discretion without prior notification. **The final approved tournament rules will be reviewed at the Friday night rules meeting.**

ORIENTATION / RULES MEETING

- 8) At least one team member **MUST** attend the rules meeting. The rules meeting will start at 6:00 PM
- 9) DMWD will take any new registrations to its tournaments and sign waivers from 3pm to 6:00pm
- 10) BOTH TEAM MEMBER MUST SIGN THE ENTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THE WAIVER OF CLAIM, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT. **If any member fails to sign the waiver, that team will not be allowed to fish.**

LIVE RELEASE OF FISH

- 11) Every effort must be made to keep the walleye alive through the use of built-in or securely fastened, properly aerated or circulating live wells.
- 12) Fish, which are brought to the weigh scale, must be alive in order to be weighed in as part of the team's daily limit. A fish is deemed alive & weighable if the gills are moving in and out (breathing). Dead fish count towards the (6) six fish limit however the weight of the fish will not be added to the total weight for that team. An alive fish that cannot be released or a dead fish will be returned to the angler unless tournament committee accepts the responsibility.
- 13) Under no circumstances can fish be purposely altered. Any fish mauled, stringed, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gill or soft flesh that causes suspicious that it is being fraudulently entered into the Tournament will result in that team(s) immediate disqualification. **Any participant found violating this rules of the Tournament may be disqualified. The case will be reviewed by the NOWT board.**
- 14) All fish must be released back into the host community's lake by tournament officials.
 - Any fish deemed un-releasable will be returned to the angler.

MORNING EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- 15) Boat inspections will take place each morning at the tent: Staff will be present at 6:30am
- 16) Teams must have all coolers, hatches and live wells open for easy inspection.
- 17) Once a team's boat is inspected and the official starts, under no circumstances will a competitor's boat pull alongside another competitor's boat at any time.

STARTING PROCEDURE

- 18) The Official Starter will release the flights 1 minute apart. (follow colored flags and numbers on wood handle)

FIRST DAY START

FISHING HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Flights 1 to 12

DAY TWO START

FISHING HOURS 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Flights 12 to 1

BOUNDARIES

The GREEN BRIDGE to the Wawa Electric Dam.

WEIGHING FISH/SCORING

- 19) All teams, which are not in the designated finishing area on time at the end of the fishing day, will not be allowed to weigh in their catch for that day.
- 20) Only walleye qualify for weigh in.
- 21) Both members of the team must remain in their boat until a tournament official comes to the boat with a weigh-in bag. ***Please double check your bags for possible holes or fish**
- 22) Each team's fish must be presented to the Weight Master or his/her Assistant in the bag supplied by the Tournament Organizers.
- The team is then responsible for placing their own fish in the weigh-in bag and carrying them to the weigh scale.
*Dock hands can come to aid if permission is giving by the captain of the team and a witness present. Dock hands are never responsible for the walleyes in case of an incident.
- 23) The officials are allowed at any time to refuse a walleye in a bad condition. A dead walleye will be refused to be weighed in but no penalty will be given (this dead walleye will count towards your daily limit of 6).
- 24) A daily limit of SIX (6) walleyes per team will be weighed, only two (2) of which can be greater than (46 cm) in length. If a fish tail, while being pinched touches the 46 cm line the fish will be deemed an "over". The tournament official measuring the fish will have the final say as to whether a fish exceeds 46 cm.
- 25) Any team which comes to the scale to weigh fish and possesses more than the allowed daily limit of Walleye (6) or more than the daily limit of "overs" (2) will have that day's entire catch disqualified. Possession includes any fish that have been weighed during that particular day.
- 26) The Daily Ministry of Natural Resources limit may be kept while angling.
- 27) Every walleye close to the 46cm will be measured before weighing them.
- 28) All the fish brought to the station counts in the daily total weight. The Officials will not measure or weigh any fish just to verify with our equipment. The official tournament measuring device will be available Friday evening prior to the event for teams to check their measuring device against the tournament measuring device for accuracy/consistency.
- 29) The weight master must confirm the walleyes are alive and fill out the weigh-in form appropriately.
- 30) The members of the team are responsible to make sure that the weighing scale and the official form are the same. One team member must sign the weigh-in form recording the weight of the catch.
- 31) All weights, upon verbal acceptance by the Team Captain, and then publicly called by the Weight Master are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
- 32) THE DECISION OF THE WEIGHT MASTER IS FINAL.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND COURTESY

- 33) Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, particularly with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of a non- competitor.
- 34) Teams may be disqualified for "un-sportsmanlike behaviour".

RULES(S) VIOLATIONS, PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- 35) Any participant has the right to enter a protest against another participant. A protest form will be available from the Tournament Director (TD) and must be completed and presented to the TD within 1 hour of the weigh in.
- 36) \$150.00 dollar protest fee must accompany the form. The fee will be returned if the protest is found to be valid.
- 37) Where a team is charged with a rule infraction by an authorized Tournament Official which could result in disqualification of the daily catch or tournament disqualification, the team has the right to appeal the decision to the Tournament Protest and Appeals Committee. Appeals must be submitted to Tournament Director at the weigh-in site within 10 minutes after weigh-in, on the day of notice of the rules infraction.
- 38) An infraction witnessed by a competitor can be reported to the Tournament Protest and Appeal Committee at the weigh-in site. In the event that an infraction is reported or a protest is entered, the NOWT board of directors, shall convene.
- 39) Witness (es) may be called to appear before the Protest Committee to provide evidence relating to the alleged rule infraction.
- 40) The Protest and Appeals Committee will interpret the rules according to their spirit and intent. The decision of the Protest Committee is final and not subject to review of any kind.
- 41) "SPIRIT OF THE RULE" All rules have "loopholes". It is the intention of the NOWT to provide an honest, sportsman-like tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgement cases.
- 42) General Penalties: Teams may be disqualified from the tournament for frequent or major infractions of the rules and will not receive a refund of their entry fee. Examples of major infractions include unsafe boating practices, gross angling ethics violations and violations that clearly give the competitor an unfair or illegal advantage over other competitors, such as; movement of fish, fishing out of bounds, caged fish, violation of provincial and federal fishing and boating regulations, exchanging fish between teams and unauthorized use of underwater cameras, drug and alcohol violations.
- 43) The official announcement of the results will take place at the high school in Dubreuilville.
- 44) Protest your team's total weight: your team will have 15 minutes, the Tournament Official will announced once the final scores are placed on board

TIE BREAKERS

- 45) The winner of a tie for the grand prize will be determined by the team with the heaviest weight of day 1.

SAFETY

- 46) The Tournament Directors have the right to delay or shorten the Tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations or due to reasons deemed necessary.
- 47) All competitors must practice safe boating at all times during practice and tournament fishing.
- 48) No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by competitors during the tournament fishing hours. In case of intoxication, the Officials have the right to test and refuse the team to go until they are safe to leave.
- 49) In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, or severe weather, teams may pull onto the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing.
- 50) Competitors **may not leave their boats** during the tournament except at the Official weigh-in site or if severe weather forces them ashore. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- 51) Every team, whether weighing fish in or not, must check in with a tournament official at the tent.
- 52) Only tournament official boats are allowed to tow a competitor's boat during fishing hours if the team wishes to weigh in their catch. However those boats requiring to be towed by tournament officials are still required to check their catch prior to end of day fishing time. The tournament official is not responsible to get the towed boat back in time.
- 53) A team that has a mechanical problem may use a different boat to finish the day's fishing. They must check out and check in to inspect new boat.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- 54) Live bait and artificial lures, manufactured baits, pork rind and commercially available liquid attractants may be used.
- 55) Landing nets may be used.
- 56) The use, in live wells, of commercially available fish care chemicals is permitted.
- 57) The use of the underwater cameras or any similar device is **prohibited** during fishing hours and cannot be present in the boat during tournament fishing hours.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION AND CARRY OVERS

- 58) There is a \$25 processing fee for those teams which withdraw from the event.
- 59) There is no refund for teams who withdraw with less than one week notice prior to the event.
- 60) Carry over registrations are valid for one year only. If the teams cancel, there will be no refund available.

TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY POLICY & SAFETY:

Participants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with tournament officials. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a contestant could be grounds for disqualification or rejection of entry application. Every participant is expected to participate in the marshalling of the field in order to maintain the highest integrity to the competition. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported to tournament officials on an Incident Report for further investigation. Incident reports carry no fee and are appropriate for communicating issues that would require warnings but not necessarily lead to disqualification. If a team feels an incident has progressed to the point of needing protest they should move to that level of official reporting

The Sanction NOWT tournaments, it's promoters, employees, sponsors, organizers, hosts, Directors, Officers and affiliated organizations assisting the operations of any of the Tournament, their agents and/or agents and assigns are not responsible for any death, injury, damage, liability, fire, theft or loss that may result prior to, during or after the Tournament howsoever caused.

Level 1 (DQ for 1 day – any fish in possession will not be weighed)

- a) not in the designated finishing area on time at the end of the fishing day
- b) did not complete morning inspection
- c) showing up at the weigh in station possessing more than 6 Walleyes
- d) Proceeding to shore without Official present
- e) fishing out of bounds

Level 2 (DQ of the tournament)

- a) Un-sportsmanship behavior
- b) Drug and alcohol violations (ex. Caught drinking in your boat)
- c) unauthorized use of underwater cameras
- d) unsafe boating practices (violation of provincial and federal fishing and boating regulations)
- e) violations that clearly give the competitor an unfair or illegal advantage over other competitors
- f) Comes to weigh-in station with more than two (2) walleyes greater than 46 cm in length.

Suspension & punishment (discussed with the NOWT Board level)

- a) Cheating
- b) Fish was purposely altered. Any fish mauled, stringed, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gill or soft flesh that causes suspicious that it is being fraudulently entered into the Tournament
- c) caged fish
- d) exchanging fish between teams
- e) gross angling ethics violations