

## OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

### **Participants and Eligibility:**

- ◆ All contestants must have an active membership in the Midwest Walleye Series.
- ◆ Contestants must enter as two-person teams. Any person 17 years of age or younger must be teamed with a parent or guardian, and no one under age 12 may participate.
- ◆ A mandatory rules and orientation meeting will be held the night prior to the tournament. Contestants will be notified of the time and place. At least one member must attend, unless prior arrangements have been made with the tournament directors due to unforeseen or emergency situations.
- ◆ Entrants will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner when fishing. Crowding other boats, moving in on other contestants or anchoring where a team is obviously fishing can be cause for disqualification for that day.

### **Fish and Fishing:**

- ◆ These tournaments will be catch and release tournaments.
- ◆ The minimum length (if applicable) of eligible fish will be set by the tournament directors.
- ◆ Teams will be allowed to weigh a maximum of (5) walleyes per boat (team) per day unless this is contrary to respective state limitations. No dead fish may be released. A deduction of .10 pounds will be taken for each dead fish weighed.
- ◆ If a team brings an undersize fish to be judged it will not be weighed. In addition the fish judge will take the teams largest remaining fish which also will not be weighed. The additional fish will be decided by the judge and this decision will be final.
- ◆ All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless the tournament directors specify more stringent regulations. Only those fish caught on hook and line in a normal and usual manner will be accepted. Live bait and artificial lures are permissible. Entrants must possess applicable state fishing licenses.
- ◆ All fish weighed must be kept and carried in aerated live wells to keep fish alive and as fresh as possible for release. Any fish, mauled, mashed, frozen, stringered, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight, or showing white gills, soft flesh or eyes, may result in disqualification at the discretion of the tournament directors.
- ◆ Each contestant, under penalty of disqualification, must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device and must have the engine kill switch attached to the boat operator at all times when the combustion engine is operating above idle.
- ◆ All boats will be inspected at launch time. All contestants must start from and return to their designated launch sites. Teams not checking in after the day's fishing may be disqualified and will not receive "show" points. All fishing must be done from a tournament-inspected boat.
- ◆ Once the tournament rules meeting has begun, all contestants are prohibited being on the water, from fishing or further practice except during designated fishing hours.
- ◆ Contestants who leave earlier than their assigned flight time may be disqualified. Contestants who return later than their assigned flight time will be penalized or disqualified.
- ◆ All teams are subject to inspection during the tournament; patrol boats may come alongside and conduct inspections at any time. No other boats may come in contact with contestants' boats. No fishing information will be give to contestants during tournament hours by tournament or non-tournament anglers.
- ◆ CB or marine radios and cell phones are allowed for emergency use ONLY. Any transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during the tournament.
- ◆ In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning and severe weather, contestants may pull into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Contestants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except at the official weigh-in station or if severe weather forces them ashore.
- ◆ All outboard motors used in this tournament competition will not exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. Each boat must have an U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate.

- ◆ Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase horsepower over factory rated horsepower is forbidden and will result in disqualification from the tournament.

**Prizes and Entry:**

- ◆ All prizes will be awarded by total weight, with the exception of the heaviest fish prize, which will be awarded individually. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the tournament.
- ◆ In the event of a tie for total weight, the tie will be determined by team number, which is determined by the order entry forms are received.
- ◆ At least one team member must accompany the catch to the scale. Each team will receive a copy of their scale ticket when the team weighs in. The scale ticket is to be initialed by one of the team members.
- ◆ Teams entering all series tournaments at one time will not be eligible for individual tournament refunds. Tournaments entered on an individual basis may receive a refund only if proper notification is received by the tournament directors at least two weeks prior to the tournament. A \$50 cancellation fee will be charged and refund checks will be made payable to both parties.
- ◆ The first place team at each tournament will receive 157 qualifying points and descending down to 20 points for the 137th place team. Qualifying points will only be awarded to teams with a total weight greater than zero. However, all participating teams will receive 10 “show” points for fishing the tournament. Teams must check-in to be eligible for these points.
- ◆ Points are distributed to teams and points may not be transferred in the event of a partner change. A partner change constitutes a new team.

**Protest and Waiver:**

- ◆ The Tournament committee, or any team, has a right to protest another team. The protest must be filed in writing with the tournament directors no later than one-half hour (30 minutes) after the close of the day’s tournament fishing hours. A three (3) man protest committee shall be appointed by the Tournament Committee prior to the tournament and will convene to hear both sides of any protest. A polygraph may be utilized if so decided by the protest committee. The decision of the protest committee shall be final in all cases. A \$150 protest fee must accompany each written protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. If the protest is valid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs, including the polygraph. If the protest is invalid, the fee will not be returned and the protesting team must pay all investigative costs including the polygraph.
- ◆ Midwest Walleye Series, TFM Promotions, Ltd., its officers and employees, promoters, tournament directors, sponsors and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies, etc. are not responsible for deaths, injuries, damages, liability, theft, fire, or any loss of any kind to entrants. Each entrant, upon signing an entry form, will be signing a waiver form.
- ◆ Disqualification from the tournament for any reason will result in the forfeiture of the entry fee and show points.
- ◆ The ruling of the tournament directors will be the final decision in any rules interpretation. All rules have “loopholes”. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the “spirit of the rule” will prevail in all judgment cases.