

# Montana Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament Rules

## Effective: July 12, 13 & 14, 2012

- 1. Eligibility:** Any applicant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult (18 and over) partner. There will be no more than 200 teams fishing in the tournament. The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual.
- 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:** Each entrant must possess a valid Montana fishing license. All contestants must observe U.S. Coast Guard and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' rules and regulations. In order to tag a fish you must also have a warm water stamp.
- 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 west end boat ramps and Kiwanis Park in Fort Peck, Montana.
- 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 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 may be 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. Non-releasable fish will be tagged by patrol boats and measuring sites and must be kept in the contestants' boats until final check-in. Teams will not be allowed more than 5 fish in the boat at any time. Big Fish Northern must be weighed at Tournament Headquarters. Any live walleye 24-inches or longer can be tagged and kept as a trophy with no penalty as long as they have warm water stamp. 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.
- 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 walleye. 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 Corps Boat even if no fish were caught. Late arrivals will be penalized 50% of that day's catch weight and will be eliminated from any big fish prizes. Boats over 15 minutes late will be completely disqualified for the day. ALL scorecards (even if no fish were caught) must be turned into tournament officials by 4:00 PM at the boat ramp headquarters. If a team's scorecard is not turned in by 4:00 PM, that team will receive a "zero" for the day's fishing weight. If you wish to check in early return your card to the Ramp Headquarters only.
- 14. Alcohol:** No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the contestants' boats.
- 15. Spirit of the Rule:** It is the intention of this tournament to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Unsportsmanlike conduct and cheating will result in disqualification. Interpretation of the rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament officials; all decisions are final.
- 16. 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 2 hours after the day of fishing. A \$100 protest fee must accompany any protest offered by a contestant. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is found to be valid. Any person found violating the rules may be immediately disqualified and the reasons for said disqualification announced at the Tournament Headquarters area.
- 17. Right to Disqualify:** Tournament directors & committee reserve the right to disqualify any teams participating in the fishing tournament that are being rude or disrespectful to any tournament staff or volunteer.
- 18. Marine Band Radio:** Radios must be present 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. Anglers should be on marine band radio #21 and patrol boats will use #22.
- 19. 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. A service charge of \$60 will be assessed.
- 20. 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.