

Walleye Searchers of Minnesota
The Walleye Federation / National Team Championship
Side Pot Event Series Rules

RULE CHANGES

These rules will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director. The decision of the tournament director shall be final in all matters. Failure to comply with any rule may result in disqualification. All rules have "loop holes"; contestants are reminded that the spirit of the rule will prevail in all judgment cases.

ELIGIBILITY & MEMBERSHIP

All anglers must be members of Walleye Searchers of Minnesota (WS) and The Walleye Federation (TWF). WS membership fee is \$25 for new members and \$35 for renewal. TWF membership (\$40) will be paid by WS upon receipt your membership dues and upon participation in your first WS Club Tournament or Side Pot Tournament.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fee of \$50.00 per boater must be paid to TWF prior to the deadline posted for each event. Entrée fees are paid for participation in the Side Pot tournament and will be used to fund the NTC entries received per the payout schedule as listed at www.walleyefederation.com. Tournament entry fees are non-refundable.

REGISTRATION

Registration for participation as a "boater" must be completed on-line at www.walleyefederation.com. Passwords and tournament login information will be provided upon completion of the boater / non-boater teams. Boaters are responsible for signing up prior to deadline noted in event posting.

PARTNER PAIRINGS

- 1) Boaters who have paid to fish Side Pot tournaments shall be drawn at random first and listed in order as drawn.
- 2) Club members fishing as boaters who are not Side Pot tournament entries shall be listed second or drawn as non-boaters.
- 3) You shall not be paired with the same non-boater for a second event.
- 4) If no partner is paired or cannot be obtained, a club member's name will be entered to complete the entry and this person will fish alone. This angler must then bring their fish to the scale. There will be no bonus for fishing alone as a side pot entrant. See Rules and Bag Limits.

SAFETY

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant must wear a Coast Guard approved personal floatation device at all times when the combustion engine is operating above trolling speed. The floatation device must be fastened securely and the safety-stop switch attached. Your vessel must meet all safety requirements for the State of Minnesota.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are expected to follow high standards of safety, conservation, and sportsmanship. No alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs are allowed in the boat at any time.

RULES AND BAG LIMITS

- 1) The Vice President of Walleye Searchers of Minnesota is the official Director of all club tournaments unless otherwise noted or appointed according to WS Club By-laws.
- 2) Only Walleye, Sauger or Saugeye shall be allowed to measure and counted for points. Any further reference to "FISH" within these guidelines is to mean Walleye, Sauger or Saugeye.
- 3) Official tally/score sheet(s) shall be turned into the Director upon completion of the tournament. Sheets shall be signed by the boater and non-boater.
- 4) All fish will be measured by using the official "Judge Ruler", no exceptions. A ruler may be used if calibrated for accuracy by the official ruler and an officer is a witness to the accuracy. All fish lengths will be converted for weight, weight conversion chart can be found at www.walleyesearchers.org.
- 5) A minimum length limit of fifteen (15) inches per fish shall be in effect. Fish are to be measured with their mouth closed and touching the "zero" reading on the ruler, and then pinch the tail to obtain the longest reading. All fish shall be measured to the nearest 1/4", rounding down for any fish between marks. Therefore a fish measuring 16-3/8" would be scored at 16-1/4". Measured fish shall be verified by the boater and non-boater.
- 6) Your final score will be based on your best five (5) fish as submitted to the tournament director. There is no limit on the number of fish caught and measured. All fish shall be immediately returned to the water.
- 7) Fish are considered legally caught if hooked gill plate and forward.
- 8) Any team pairings that were not drawn at the meeting (new partner to fill field) or anyone fishing alone, must bring their fish to the scale for verification.
- 9) Ties in club tournaments shall be broken by "The team measuring the longest fish"; therefore, the longest fish shall be the largest recorded fish at each tournament. A member of the team will select which fish will be the big fish out of their catch. If both teams remain tied after longest fish is determined, then both teams will be awarded points for the higher place (tied for 3rd and 4th, both teams get 3rd place points).
- 10) Tournament hours shall be 7:00 AM and the return shall be at 3:00 PM. Boats shall take off in the order they were drawn at the monthly/rules meeting. The last boat drawn shall be responsible to safely flight out teams. Each boat shall taxi past the starting boat in boat number order for release by the flight boat. Any team leaving before they were properly signaled to do so or out of order shall be eliminated.
- 11) You must be within sight of the take off point and off plane by the designated return time or the following penalties shall apply:
 - a. Up to five minutes: Deduct 1/2 the total weight.
 - b. Over five minutes: No points awarded
- 12) The Vice President shall be the official timekeeper.
- 13) A boat towing another boat due to mechanical problems shall have no points deducted from any member involved in the assistance of the disabled boat, including the members in the disabled boat.

WEIGH-IN

Teams must come to the official weigh-in site by water. Weigh-in slips must be signed by both team members prior to submitting to the tournament director. Teams must check in by official check-in time or be disqualified for the day. Boats within line of sight and off plane at official time are considered on time. You must check-in whether weighing fish or not.

POINT STRUCTURE

Points will be accumulated over three (3) events. The top (3) boaters at the conclusion of the series will receive paid entries to the 2015 National Team Championship. Each boater may select any WS member who has fished at least one club tournament in 2014 to be his/her partner.

Points will be awarded based on the order of finish as follows:

1 st = 100 points	6 th = 78 points to 30 th = 30 points, reduce by 2 points each place
2 nd = 95 points	31 st = 29 points to 50 th = 12 points, reduce by 1 point each place
3 rd = 90 points	
4 th = 85 points	
5 th = 80 points	
6 th = 78 points	

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Tournament officials will only begin tournaments during acceptable weather conditions. It is solely the responsibility of the contestants to be aware of changing weather conditions. If conditions change during tournament hours to unsafe conditions, the contestants are permitted to seek safe shelter until weather conditions pass. Cellular phones, CBs or marine radios are allowed for emergencies only. The start time may be held till no later than 11:00am and shall be completed by 5:00pm, fishing hours shall not be longer than eight (8) hours in any circumstance. If delayed it is the boaters responsibility to be aware of the return time.

The above rules are not all inclusive in regards to sportsmanship and ethical behavior. The tournament Director has final say in all rule interpretations and reserves the right to interpret and enforce rule violations not covered above at their discretion.