

2024 TOURNAMENT RULES

Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout

“Catch, Record, Release” Walleye Tournament

June 29, 2024

Tournament Rules & Regulations

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION:

1. Each participant must complete, sign and submit a Grand Rapids Walleye Tournament Official Entry Form. Registration forms, along with the correct entry fee, can be mailed to: Lyndsay Anderson 49785 County Rd 184 Deer River MN 56636. Checks for registration need to be written out to: Thunderhawks Blue Line Club.
2. A waiting list for participants will be maintained by the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Committee. In the event of a cancellation, the next person on the waiting list will be notified. If a fully paid team alternative fills the cancellation opening prior to the entry deadline, the cancellation will be eligible for a 50% refund.
3. All participants must possess valid fishing licenses for the tournament waters being fished.
4. As a condition of participation in the tournament, each participant must execute a Release of Liability. The release indemnifies Grand Rapids Hockey and tournament sponsors. This is filled out with registration.
5. Participants must have proper liability insurance for the boat being used in the Walleye Tournament.
6. As a condition of participation in the tournament, each competitor must sign a Publicity Release. This release allows the use of the participant’s likeness in all marketing.
7. A team must have two (2) persons and must fish in the same boat. One (1) team per boat.
8. The Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout reserves the right to refuse entry to any individuals who have been barred or disqualified from any tournament for rules violations.
9. Contestants under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form, as well as the contestant’s signature.

CATCH-RECORD-RELEASE FORMAT/SCORING:

1. The Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout is designed for “weigh-in” through a photo and scorecard process, referred to as the “CRR”: Catch-Record-Release. No fish will be brought to the “weigh-in Stage”.
2. CRR requires the use of a digital camera. One digital camera that has a date and time feature and that is compatible for a SD memory card will be required per team. **CAMERAS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN SD COMPATIBLE CAMERA.** Blank formatted SD memory cards will be provided for tournament use.
3. Participants agree to use the provided required official tournament ruler and Official Tournament Scorecard. Team members agree to work together to measure, photograph, and record their catch.
4. The Catch, Record, Release procedures will be reviewed at the Rules meeting. The general procedures are as follows:
 - Team participant #1 holds the fish on the official AIM tournament ruler. The belly of the fish must face the person measuring the fish. The mouth of the fish **MUST** touch the bump plate on the ruler to the **LEFT** (Head to Left), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length on the **RIGHT** end of the ruler (Tail to the Right).
 - Both team participants must agree on the length of the fish to 1/4th inch accuracy. If the tail fin crosses a graduation on the ruler, the official length may be rounded up to the nearest one quarter (1/4) of an inch.
 - While the fish is being held on the ruler, a “scoring” photo must be taken of the fish which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The **HEAD** and **TAIL** of the fish must be included and show clearly. The photograph must be taken of the **LEFT** side of the fish **ONLY** (belly towards the angler holding the fish, head to the left). A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, and the left side of the fish on the ruler **WILL NOT BE SCORED**. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed.
 - Another photo **MUST** be taken of the fish being held up by a partner. This “hero shot” photo **MUST** show the entire **RIGHT** side of the fish. These photos will be used for technical evaluation and may be used on stage during the awards ceremony or posted to GRAHA media outlets (web, Facebook, etc.).
 - The length of the fish is recorded on the Official Tournament Scorecard by team participant #1 and they initial the entry. If an error is made, the line should be crossed out and the next open line should be used to record the fish’s length.
 - The fish is then immediately released by the participant holding the fish
 - Record the length of the fish on the Official Scorecard and both partners should validate the length recorded for accuracy.
 - In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the CRR process requires that one fish must be measured, photographed, and released as quickly as possible before next fish can be processed.

- In order to speed up the CPR process, while a fish is in the boat, anglers will Not be allowed to reset or place any fishing lines in the water. After all Fish are processed and released, normal angling may resume.

SCORING:

- At the completion of the tournament day, each Team will select up to FIVE (5) fish to be counted towards their daily weight and designate these fish on the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Official Scorecard. These are the only fish that will be scored. Then each Team will convert the lengths of each of the FIVE designated fish to weight using a standardized Length-to-Weight Conversion Chart. The SUM of these FIVE fish will be the Teams unofficial total weight for the day.
- BOTH partners are REQUIRED to sign the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Official Scorecard to certify their catch.
- At the daily check-in, the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout provided equipment including the ruler, SD memory card, and Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Official Scorecard will be turned in to a tournament official. The photos of each fish will be used for confirmation of length and to validate the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Official Scorecard. NO validating PHOTOS or LOSS of the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Official Scorecard will result in forfeiture of ALL WEIGHT that day.
- In the event a photo that designates a fish to be scored is judged to be unscorable, a replacement fish will not be allowed.
- In the event that TWO (or more) photos that designate fish to be scored are judged to be unscorable, the team will lose all weight for the day.
- Tournament standings and final results shall be determined by the converted weight of each Teams daily "limit", or the total cumulative weights in a multi-day event.
- The official minimum length will be 14 inches; the tail MUST touch at least the 14-inch mark on the ruler. If a fish recorded on the Official Scorecard has an associated fish photo the does not meet the minimum length, it shall result in the entire daily weight being disqualified.
- Two scorecards will be provided. If the first Scorecard should become damaged, it is permissible to transfer the data to the second Scorecard. BOTH Scorecards must be turned in at the check-in dock. Loss of the Official Scorecard will result in disqualification.
- Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the total converted weight of each team.
- Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be credited only at the discretion of Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout Officials and Tournament Director. Any fish that are deemed altered by an angler may result in Team disqualification for the day or event.

TIES:

- In the case of a TIE or TIES between Teams in converted weights, all ties will be broken in the following manner:
- First Tiebreaker by the heaviest converted weight individual fish on the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout scorecard.

- Second Tiebreaker (if necessary) by the second heaviest converted weight fish on the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout scorecard.
- Third Tiebreaker (if necessary) by the third heaviest converted weight fish on the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout scorecard.
- Fourth Tiebreaker (if necessary) by the fourth heaviest converted weight fish on the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout scorecard.

RULES MEETING:

1. A rules meeting will take place on **Friday, June 28, 2024 at the Yanmar Arena, 1401 NW 3rd Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744**. One angler **must attend** the rules meeting, this will also be used for tournament officials to confirm each teams registration. All anglers are responsible for knowing the tournament rules.

PREFISHING:

1. All pre-fishing must end at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2024. Any team caught on the lake after that time, could result in disqualification.

COMPETITION:

1. The Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout is open to Pokegama Lake, which does include the Mississippi River, along with Big and Little Jay Gould.
2. Tentatively, boats 1-50 will be required to use Tioga Landing. Boats 51-65 will be required to use Mishawaka Landing. Boats 66-80 will be required to use LaPlant Landing. Boats 81-100 will be required to use Sherry's Arm Landing.
3. Boat numbers will be set by scramble conducted by tournament officials prior to the rules meeting. Each team will receive a "boat number board" which will remain with the boat for the duration of the event. This boat number board must be displayed at the take-off and check-in and upon the request of a tournament official. Participants must have their assigned boat number board with them at check-in on the day of the tournament to participate.
4. All boats must be checked in by a Tournament Committee Official before the start of the tournament. All live wells and storage compartments must be accessible to a tournament committee official. During inspection, each boat will receive two official scorecards, a formatted SD memory card for their digital camera and an official ruler (and angler boat numbers which must be placed on motor).
5. There will be only one official point for take-off in the morning, which shall be designated at the Rules meeting. All boats will depart from the anchored start/finish boat at the designated start time (7:00 a.m.) in numerical order. Boats will trickle start one by one and will receive the "go ahead" from the start/finish boat. At the time of take-off, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the tournament committee.

6. No marine radio, cell phones, or other electronic communication is allowed during tournament hours except for an emergency. Official Marine Channel is Channel #1.

7. No binoculars are permitted in boats during competition hours.

8. At no time during the tournament hours shall a contestant leave their boat unless granted permission from a Tournament Committee Official. Use safe judgment during inclement weather. If there is a need to clear the lake, the fishing tournament will resume when the Tournament Committee Officials deem the lake safe. Tournament Committee Officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of tournament due to dangerous weather conditions. Tournament boundaries may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. The tournament may be cancelled (even after the tournament has started) because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of competitors.

9. When returning, each boat must check in with the Start/Finish boat BEFORE the 3:00 p.m. deadline for Flight 1 boats 1-33, 3:15 PM for flight 2 boats 34-67 and 3:30 for flight 3 boats 68-101. After being recognized as "checked-in" by the Start/Finish boat, you will proceed to the check-in docks (same docks as used in the morning) and turn in your pack sacks, your tournament SD memory cards, official score cards (both of them) and official Judge rulers.

CHECK IN AT THE START/FINISH BOAT AND AT THE CHECK-IN DOCKS IS MANDATORY-FISH OR NO FISH.

10. Teams not returning at the specified check-in time, will be immediately disqualified.

11. A protest of any kind must be filed with the Tournament Committee Officials before the awards ceremony begins. A \$300.00 fee is required: refunded if found to be valid. The protest committee will consist of two (2) tournament officials and three (3) randomly selected contestants. The committee findings are final. If the committee recommends a polygraph test, monies will be withheld until the results of the polygraph test are known. Participants taking a polygraph test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred.

12. Promoters, tournament committee officials, organizations and sponsors are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire or loss of any kind to participants.

ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. No alcohol beverages may be consumed during tournament hours.

2. All contestants competing in this event are expected to act in a sportsman like manner at all times towards non-competitors and competitors alike. Violators of this rule will be disqualified.

3. The violation of any rule, as determined by the tournament committee officials, shall result in automatic disqualification from the tournament and ineligibility of prizes or awards. The Tournament Committee officials' decision will be final and may not be challenged.

4. 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.

5. All boats must meet Coast Guard and State requirements. Motors may not exceed BIA rating established by the manufacturer. Boats are limited to 1 auxiliary fuel tank (capacity not to exceed 7 gallons). Fuel tank must also meet Coast Guard standards and be securely fastened to the boat.

MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS:

1. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the participants should attempt to make contact with a Tournament Committee Official.

2. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, it is permissible for the participants to transfer to another competitor's boat for transportation to the check-in with their SD memory card, Official Scorecard, and official ruler. Teams must still arrive at the check-in on time.

3. Any boat that comes to the aid of a competitor OR another boat may be exempted from late penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Committee Officials. The assisting team must note the time and GPS position where assistance was given.

4. Running out of gas is NOT considered a mechanical breakdown, and the boat will NOT be exempted from late penalties.

AWARDS:

Top ten teams will be called once officials have confirmed scores. Top ten will be asked to show up at Yanmar Arena where each team will have score and weights determined and proper awards presented. We invite the Top Ten teams to pull their boats through the building for the fans to see. Top Ten will be on Facebook live and the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout web site.

2. Anglers are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.

3. Participants who receive cash awards will be required to provide the Grand Rapids Walleye Shootout with a W-9 prior to receiving their cash award when required.

4. The Tournament Committee Officials reserve the right to adjust cash/prize payouts.

5. Payout amounts will be determined based on number of boats entered.

******Rules subject to change******

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

OFFICIAL MARINE BAND CHANNEL: #1
CELLULAR PHONE:
Denny Fox AIM: (920) 505-0122