

## 2011 Washington State Walleye Championship RULES

**ELIGIBILITY**– Entries accepted as two person teams. Any applicant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult partner. Eligibility is at the sole discretion of Tournament Officials and any person or team may be denied entry in the TRWC for any reason whatsoever at the sole discretion of Tournament Officials.

**REGISTRATION**– TRWC is limited to a field of 150 teams. Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Entries close at 4:00pm Friday, July 29, 2011. Entries after 4:00 pm will start last each day. Any cancellations will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**– By signing the tournament entry form all participants agree to the following release of liability; “We, in consideration of being permitted to participate in this tournament, do now and forever discharge the tournament officials and all sponsoring companies and individuals, from any and every claim, demand, action, in whatever kind of nature, either by law or in equity. We further release all officials, staff, participating sponsor companies and agencies from any claim whatsoever on account of first aid treatment or service rendered me during my participation in this tournament. I understand that photographs, film or videotapes may be taken of me while participating in this tournament, by tournament administrators, sponsors or media. I further agree that tournament administrators, sponsors and new media without royalties or prior consent may use photographs or videotapes taken for commercial purposes. This release contains the entire agreement between parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.”

**PRE-FISHING**– Water is closed to fishing to all pre-registered persons and potential contestants at 4:00pm Friday, July 29 2011 before official tournament begins.

**REGULATIONS**– All contestants must observe US Coast Guard, National Park Service and Washington Department of Wildlife rules and regulations unless specifically waived in these tournament rules. Any contestant cited for Federal or State rule violations will be subject to disqualification.

**TEAMS**– Contestants must enter as two person teams. Tournament officials must approve any change in team members and a new application may be required. If an emergency arises and one team member is unable to continue fishing, the other team member may finish the days fishing individually, adhering to an individual bag limit consisting of 5 fish in possession only two of which may be over 20”.

**INSPECTIONS**– Boats will receive an inspection each day at Kettle Falls Marina. Failure to have a boat inspected may lead to disqualification for the day in which the inspection was not obtained. No boats will have walleye on board prior to the start of the tournament. All boats must carry and display marking approved by tournament officials. Tournament officials may inspect boats, tackle, and equipment at any time, before, during, or after the tournament. All boats must meet or exceed State and Federal safety requirements.

**TACKLE & BAIT**– Washington State rules and regulations apply. Spare equipment may be carried in the boat.

**BOAT OPERATION**– Each entrant is required to wear a US Coast Guard approved

PFD upon take-off each day and whenever the boat is being operated at planning speed. Teams will depart only under the direction of tournament officials. It is considered good sportsmanship to maintain a minimum distance of 20 feet from another boat, No boat contact will be allowed except by a tournament patrol boat. Use of cell phones, CB and Marine radios will not be allowed except in an emergency.

***CATCH & REALESE POLICY (CULLING)*** – The use of an aerated livewell is **mandatory**. All fish must be kept in good condition. All fish that have been injured by hook or by handling may not be released. The release of an injured fish, including any fish that float to the surface, is not allowed and may result in disqualification. At no time may a team's livewell contain more than five (5) walleye. Whenever a fish in the livewell is replaced with new catch, the fish to be released must be in good condition. Washington State regulations require all walleye contestants to have and use a livewell which has a water capacity of at least 20 gallons. All livewells must have both a functional freshwater pump and aeration capability.

***CHECKING IN AND LATE PENALTY*** – All boats must be checked in each day at the designated on-the-water tournament check in station (same place as take-off each morning – the pontoon boat sitting just off shore from the entrance of Kettle Falls Marina), regardless if the team has fish or not. The team number and arrival time will be recorded upon arrival. It is the team's sole responsibility to see that their boat number is viewable and properly recorded. Boats arriving after the official check time but within 5 minutes of it will be penalized 10% of that day's catch weight, and will be eliminated from any big fish prizes. Boats over 5 minutes late will be disqualified entirely for that day. In the event of a backlog of boats at the check in station, boats that have arrived prior to the deadline will not be penalized. Once a team has checked in they are no longer eligible to fish for that day.

***SCORING*** – Each team may weigh up to 5 walleye per day, only 2 of which may be longer than 20". Any fish that shows signs of poor handling will not be counted. The Weighmaster will make all determinations as to the condition of each fish, as well as length and weight. Final measurement is determined on a flat board with mouth closed and tail in a relaxed position. Any team's bag limit containing fish in excess of two over 20" will be disqualified for that day. Each dead fish weighed in will be penalized 8 oz. **A dead fish is not eligible for big fish award.** Final weight is determined after any penalties have been assessed. The Weighmaster's decisions are final. Awards and prizes will be based on the two-day weight total. At the sole discretion of tournament officials, any contestants receiving prize money may be required to submit to and pass a polygraph test in order to receive any payout.

***ALCOHOL*** – No alcoholic beverages will be allowed in contestants boats or consumed by contestants during tournament hours. Any contestant visibly intoxicated will not be allowed to fish. Violation of these rules will result in disqualification for the tournament.

***SPORTSMANSHIP*** – Certain contestants may be asked to receive awards and speak on or near the stage. It is expected that they behave in a civil manner always displaying good sportsmanship, manners and behavior. Failure to do so may result in being banned from future tournaments with any determination to be at the sole discretion of tournament officials.

***LANDING*** – While contestants are engaged in competition during tournament hours, team boats may only land at Tournament Headquarters. Teams are allowed to gas up their boats

during tournament hours at Kettle Falls Marina, Keller Ferry Marina, and the Daisy Store. Other than gas and oil, teams are not allowed to purchase any other supplies during tournament hours, landing at any other location may result in disqualification.

***SPIRIT OF THE RULE*** – It is the intention of this tournament to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. When a buoy marker is placed in the water it will establish a 75’ diameter fishing circle, which may not be fished or navigated through by another contestant. Once a marker has been placed to establish a fishing circle, that contestant must remain within the 75’ diameter circle. The marker is only good while the area is being actively fished. “Hole sitting” by non-contestants is strictly prohibited. Un-sportsman like conduct or cheating may result in disqualification and being banned from future tournaments. Interpretation of rules, events and circumstances will be at the sole discretion of tournament officials.

***PROTEST POLICY*** – Only tournament officials and contestants have the right to protest the actions of another team or contestant. Protests must be presented in writing to tournament officials in person no later than 30 minutes after the close of the fishing day. A \$100 protest fee must accompany any protest made by a contestant. A three person committee appointed by tournament officials will convene and investigate to make a decision regarding the protest. The protest committee and their agents are authorized to utilize polygraph examinations and other investigative techniques in order to determine the validity of the protest. The decision of the protest committee shall be the majority vote and shall be final in all cases. Contestants waive right to appeal the decision of the protest committee to a higher authority, including any court or jurisdiction in this and any other state. If a protest by a contestant is found to be invalid, the fee will not be returned. Any person found violating the rules may be immediately disqualified and the reason for said disqualification announced by tournament officials.

***WITHDRAWAL*** – Entry fee refunds will be made only if the team gives written notification of withdrawal within 24 hours prior to the close of entries at 6:00 pm Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. A service charge of \$50 may be assessed against refunds made to withdrawal from the tournament.

***TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS*** – Tournament Headquarters will be considered as the location of the tournament stage at the “Kettle Falls City Park”.

***FISHING AREA*** - Fishing will be allowed within the boundaries of Lake Roosevelt between Grand Coulee Dam and the Canadian Border including the Spokane River Arm. **Fishing is not allowed within the boundaries of any marina, or within 100’ of any net pen.**

***TOURNAMENT HOURS*** – Start time for the first flight will be 6:00am each day. All starts will occur on the water at the designated start and check in location in front of the entrance of the Kettle Falls Marina. Subsequent flights will start immediately after the preceding flight has completed their start (rolling start with no hold back). Check in will be by flights at 30-minute intervals. First flight will be due back by 2:00pm each day with subsequent flights at 30 minute intervals. Fish can be weighed in early at the Weigh-in Station starting at 9:00am. Tournament officials reserve the right to cancel or change the hours of daily competition for weather or any other unforeseen circumstance.

***DRIVER'S MEETING*** – The driver' meeting will be held at the Tournament Headquarters on Friday, July 29th at 5:30pm **At least one member of each team must attend this meeting.**

***PARKING*** – Contestants are not allowed to park in the Kettle Falls Launch parking lot during competition. Contestants parking in this lot may have their team's weight disqualified for the day(s) that the parking occurred. A parking area and shuttle service will be provided.

***CHANGE OF RULES*** – Tournament officials reserve the right to change or modify these rules at any time for any reason.