

2024 DEVILS LAKE CHAMBER WALLEYE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES

Please note: The 2024 tournament format has changed to a one-day tournament and will be a Friday tournament with a Saturday optional day in case of inclement weather.

ELIGIBILITY: Any person 18 years old and older will be eligible to compete. Persons under 18 years old can participate only as a teammate of a parent, guardian, or relative 18 years or older. **The entry fee is \$275 per team.** (\$25 of the entry fee goes towards the tournament meal.) If both team members are under 21 and meet the criteria to be a legal team, the entry fee for the tournament is only \$250. **Entries received after midnight on Thursday, June 13th will be \$300 per team.** Entries must be completed and signed by each member of the team: two (2) people per boat. Tournament officials will make a reasonable effort to assist persons with handicap or individual needs. Please notify the Chamber prior to the rules meeting of any such needs 701-662-4903.

TEAM MEMBER REPLACEMENT: All partner and team changes must be made prior to 12:00 p.m. (Noon) official time on Thursday, June 13, and with the approval of the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce. If one of the original two-team members drops out, he/she may be replaced by the choice of the remaining team member. **A payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25) and properly filled out paperwork is due at the time of the partner change.** If both original team members drop out (either together or sequentially), and it is prior to noon official time on Thursday, June 20, 2024 teams on the waiting list will be given an opportunity to fill the spot(s). **Only** if the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce is successful in replacing the dropped team will entry fee(s) be refunded, less a \$50 per team fee, and then NOT until after the tournament. No Exception.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: Ends 3:00 p.m. Thursday, June 20, 2024. No contestant is allowed on the water except during tournament hours after this time.

RULES MEETING & REGISTRATION: Registration will be Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 3:00-4:45 p.m. official time at Grahams Island State Park. **Rules meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. official time. ONE MEMBER OF EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT.** It is the responsibility of each team to **register by 4:45 p.m.; failure may result in disqualification and forfeit of entry fee.**

OFFICIAL TIME/MEASURING BOARD: Official tournament time may be obtained by calling 701-662-1111. Official Time Clock and Measuring Board will be available for comparison at registration.

FISHING HOURS & FLIGHTS: Friday, June 21, eight (8) hours of competition. Explanation of flights, check-in & check-out location presented at tournament rules meeting. Saturday, June 22 will be used if necessary, to hold a one-day tournament. All team numbers and flights will be done as a first-come first-served basis by order of receiving tournament registration with first place team from previous years' tournament receiving boat #1.

TOURNAMENT LAUNCH: The tournament field will launch in the morning in order of boat numbers. If you are not in the proper line when sent off by the tournament boat, you will go to the back of the line. If you fail to go to the back of the line, and take off out of order, you will be disqualified for that day of fishing.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Each team **MUST** check-in and check-out EACH day with tournament officials at the specified location. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the tournament and any tournament prizes. Upon cancellation of the tournament, whether first or second day, each team **MUST** check-out with tournament officials at the specified location. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the tournament and any tournament prizes. At the time of check-in, every boat will undergo an inspection. If not adhered to, disqualification will result. All boats are required to trailer to tournament launch location. No boats will be allowed to check-in by coming across water from another landing.

INSPECTION: Boats will be inspected before, after and possibly during the tournament. Cheating will result in disqualification.

BOAT INSPECTION: The Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce **requires** that all contestants' clean, dry & wash their boats (especially if boat has been in other waters) live wells and trailers prior to entering Devils Lake for pre-fishing or tournament activities. All boats are required to be inspected for ANS and certified ANS free prior to first launch for tournament activities. **Morning boat inspection will include ANS inspection and those who do not pass inspection will be disqualified.** The boat inspection is located at **Newby's ACE Hardware**, 210 Hwy 2 West, and will be inspected during normal business hours. You must obtain an ANS inspection sticker to enter the tournament.

ALCOHOL POLICY: No alcohol is allowed in the boat during the tournament. No alcohol consumption by anglers is allowed until after your team's weigh-in. No alcohol or open containers on stage or in photos.

STAGE INTERVIEWS: I agree to go up on stage with/without my team's catch for an interview with the MC.

TACKLE: Artificial and live baits may be used in accordance with North Dakota Game & Fish Department regulations.

REGULATIONS: All contestants must observe U.S. Coast Guard & North Dakota Game & Fish Department rules, regulations, laws & license requirements. All boats must carry required safety items. **Each contestant must wear a PFD at all times when boat is above trolling speed or on plane.** Contestants may use no more than two fishing lines per person at one time on Devils Lake under North Dakota Game & Fish Department regulations.

COMMUNICATION & VISUAL AID DEVICES: CB & Marine radios and cell telephones will be permitted for **emergency transmissions ONLY.** **Transmitting information concerning any aspect of the taking of fish during the tournament is prohibited.** This includes but is not limited to: verbal communication with non-tournament anglers and boaters, binoculars, spotting scopes, underwater cameras, text messaging or other visual aid devices. All are prohibited. **Any team caught communicating or using such devices will be disqualified.**

FISHING: It shall be illegal for two (2) boats to pull up to each other during tournament hours. Fishing contestants must remain a minimum of fifty (50) feet from other contestant's boats when fishing. **Contestants may not leave the boat at any time** to land fish, untangle line or lures or for any other reason. Exception – in the event of hazardous weather contestants may take any safety precautions necessary including leaving the lake. Consequence for leaving your boat in non-emergency situations will be forfeiture of that day's weight. **Check-in is still required in every case.** Contestant boats are allowed to return to the tournament launch location during tournament hours for emergency services, repairs, wait out inclement weather, etc. Contestants not weighing in will be allowed to depart from tournament launch location after undergoing an inspection process again.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Tournament Officials have the right to postpone or cancel that day's fishing due to inclement weather. If a day of fishing is cancelled, Saturday will be used as an optional fishing day. If all two days are cancelled, drawings will be held for all prizes. In the event of cancellation after boats have been released to the water please note the following: 1) All boats must check back in with tournament officials, & 2) No fish will be weighed. **Failure to check in may result in disqualification & loss of eligibility for all prizes.** All boats not returning to harbor of launch must contact a tournament official for notification of safe return. Weather cancellation determination prior to launch will be made by the following: tournament officials will use the National Weather Service as the official website. Tournament officials reserve the right to cancel the day of fishing or alter fishing hours if the National Weather Service forecasts sustained winds of 20 MPH and/or wind gusts of 25 MPH.

FISHING AREA: Fishing area will be any part of Devils Lake that is accessible by water from the launch site except anything north of Hwy 2 and otherwise noted at the rules meeting.

LATE PENALTY: Contestants who return later than the prescribed time, will be penalized ten (10%) percent of their day's weight up to 15 minutes, and will be disqualified from the largest fish prizes. Over 15 minutes late will be disqualified for the day. Teams have up to 1 hour after weigh-in closes to check-in. **ANY TEAM THAT FAILS TO CHECK-IN AFTER EITHER DAY OF FISHING MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT.** Any expense incurred in sending Search and Rescue personnel out will be your financial responsibility.

FISH HANDLING: Contestants are to use live wells or coolers to keep fish in during the tournament. If any fish are questionable (white gills, soft flesh, sunken eyes, etc.) due to poor handling by a team, these fish will NOT be counted, and team disqualification may result based on the judgment of the officials. No stringers or baskets!

SCALES & WEIGH-IN: The scales for weigh-in of fish will be open after 1:00 p.m. on the fishing day. Once a team has weighed in their catch, they are NOT permitted to go back out to try for any other species or tournament weight. Under NO circumstances shall anyone other than the team members or tournament officials, handle or touch the catch until after it has been presented to the officials at the weigh-in scale. **One team member must verify weights and initial the scale ticket.** Initialing means acceptance of the weight as written.

SCORING: This is not a catch and release tournament. **TEAMS ARE PERMITTED ONLY 6 WALLEYES IN THE BOAT**, but scoring is based on five walleye per day. Teams are permitted to bring only five walleyes to the scale; the remainder fish must be retained in your boat. Minimum walleye length for scoring is fifteen (15”) inches. Scoring is by total weight. Reminder, ND Game & Fish does not permit the culling of fish. Once a fish has been committed to your live well you must take possession of it.

PRIZES: Prizes will be awarded on a team basis. Prizes will be announced at the completion of the tournament after tournament officials make verification. All payouts for cash prizes are based on a full field of **125 TEAMS** with the exception of 1st place, which is guaranteed. Balance of payout will be based on number of tournament entries, paying out 90% of the entries plus any additional prizes solicited. Ties will be resolved by a coin toss with the lower boat number calling the side of the coin. Placing will be adjusted accordingly. Cash payments will be issued to individual team members within 10 working days of the tournament after verification of results by tournament officials has been made. **Sponsors, supporters or other invested parties may offer contingency prizes and are the sole responsibility of them to fulfill.** These will be posted and/or announced at the rules meeting.

APPLICABLE TAXES: Contestants alone are responsible for any applicable taxes due on any prize won in compliance with Federal and State tax laws. Contestants agree to provide their Social Security number to be eligible for any prize. Individual or combined prize amounts totaling over \$600 will receive tax form 1099. Social Security number MUST be provided to the Chamber of Commerce before payment will be released.

SPORTSMANSHIP/SPIRIT OF THE RULES: Contestants will be expected to be courteous, safety conscious and practice fundamental sporting principles. All rules have loopholes. It is the intention of the sponsors to provide an honest sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the “spirit of the rules” will prevail in all judgment cases. No participant shall use vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate language towards tournament officials or volunteers. Use of such language or gestures will result in immediate disqualification from the Chamber tournament and any prize awards. Any person disqualified under these rules may not be eligible to fish future Chamber tournaments. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please respect others on the water as well as the volunteers who make this tournament a success.

PROTESTS: Only contestants and tournament officials have the right to contest the actions of another team or contestant. Protests by contestants must be filed in writing with the tournament director, in person, no later than one (1) hour after the close of that fishing day. **One hundred (\$100) dollar protest fee must accompany any protest offered by a contestant.** The Tournament Officials will convene to investigate and make a decision regarding the protest. The Tournament Officials and their agents are authorized to utilize polygraph examinations and any other investigative techniques, including testimony under oath, in order to determine the validity of the protest or the charge against any contestant(s). The decision of the Tournament Officials shall be by a majority vote and shall be final in all cases. Contestants waive any right or opportunity to appeal the decision of the Tournament Officials to a higher authority including any court or jurisdiction in this or any other state. If a protest by a contestant is found to be valid, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is found invalid, the fee will not be returned. Any person found violating the rules may be immediately disqualified and the reasons for said disqualification announced at weigh-in.

POLYGRAPH: All teams are subject to, and awards will be based on polygraph tests or voice stress tests (if administered).

PHOTO RELEASE: I understand that photographs, film or videotapes of me during my participation in the tournament may be used for commercial purposes by tournament organizers, sponsors and the news media without royalties or prior consent.

INTERPRETATION OF THESE RULES IS LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL(S) AND SHALL BE FINAL IN ALL MATTERS. FURTHER, THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY TO ANY INDIVIDUAL.

To contact the Chamber of Commerce, Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm call 701-662-4903. Inquiries during the tournament, call 701-351-4159.
2024 Tournament Director: Devils Lake Chamber & Tourism Director, Suzie Kenner

Detach Here, Complete & Mail with \$275 Entry Fee to: Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 879, Devils Lake, ND 58301

Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament Official Entry Form–For June 21, 2024

FIRST PARTNER NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE NO. () _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

IF UNDER AGE 21, PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR BIRTH DATE: _____

SECOND PARTNER NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE NO. () _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

IF UNDER AGE 21, PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR BIRTH DATE: _____

CELL #(S) YOU CAN BE REACHED ON THE WATER FOR SAFETY. () _____

Release of Liability/Waiver: We the undersigned hereby release the Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament and their agents from any and all liability for death, injury, damage, theft, fire or any loss occurring during this event. We are having read and understand the rules as printed on this application and agree to comply with them. By signing this application, we hereby agree to all terms and conditions of this tournament including submitting to a polygraph test if and when directed to.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Boat License #: _____ **State Registered:** _____ *[For internal use only]* **Team #:** _____

**You will be asked to provide Social Security # in the event you win more than \$600 at the tournament.
Checks will not be released until information is provided.*