

# The Starvation Walleye Classic

# Official Tournament Rules

*Revised, 2019*

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www.starvationclassic.com

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## Eligibility/Registration/Requirements

**1. Participation and eligibility.** The tournament organization has no restrictions as to race, gender, creed, or color. All tournament contestants must be over 16 years of age. Any applicant under the age of 18 must submit to Tournament Officials written consent and release of liability from a parent or guardian. Tournament Officials will make any and all determination of eligibility, and reserve the right to refuse entry to any individual or team.

**2. Teams.** Each team will consist of 1 or 2 team members. Only registered team members will be allowed to be in a boat on tournament days. A contestant may fish alone without a designated partner but must pay the full team entry fee.

**3. Registration/withdrawal.** Unless previous arrangements are approved by the Tournament Director, all entry fees must be paid before or at the rules meeting on the Friday preceding the tournament. Teams withdrawing one week or more prior to the tournament will receive a refund less a \$50 cancellation fee. Teams withdrawing after this time forfeit their entire fee.

**4. Aquatic nuisance species compliance.** All tournament contestants are required to follow best practices and comply with Utah law regarding invasive species exposure and documentation. Find more information at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/invasive-mussels.html>. Penalty for violation is disqualification.

**5. Licenses/permits.** Each contestant must have in possession a valid Utah fishing license and any additional stamps or other documents that may be required. Licenses and permits can be obtained online at [www.wildlife.utah.gov](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov). Penalty for violation is disqualification.

**6. Insurance/liability.** It is the sole responsibility of the boat owner to carry proof of adequate public liability insurance covering boat occupants. Contestants must be able to provide proof of insurance when requested by Tournament Officials.

In signing the entry form, all contestants agree to hold harmless any and all promoters, tournament directors, agents, and organizations assisting the tournament or sponsors. Furthermore, all contestants agree to waive all responsibility for death, injuries, damage, liability, theft, fire or loss of any kind to entrants. No unsigned entry form will be processed for competition.

**7. Boat/equipment.** Each tournament boat must be a minimum of 16 feet in length with a minimum 10 horsepower main motor unless approved by Tournament Officials. Motors may not exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat. Each boat must be equipped with a functioning aerated livewell. All boats must comply with applicable laws regarding equipment (See the brochure, "Highlights from Utah's Boating Laws & Rules.")

## Tournament

**8. Restricted lake access.** During the time period beginning 1/2 hour before the rules meeting on the day before the tournament and ending after the weigh-in on the last day, tournament contestants, representatives, relatives, etc. shall only be allowed on the lake during designated tournament hours unless specifically authorized beforehand by the Tournament Director.

**9. Drivers/Rules meeting.** Tournament hours, special rules and rule changes, order of blast-off, and other information of vital interest to contestants is announced at the pre-tournament rules meeting the evening before

the tournament begins. All teams, unless excused by Tournament Officials, are required to attend this meeting. Teams in violation will be started last on all tournament days.

**10. Soliciting information.** No contestant may solicit or receive information from any non-contestant during the tournament or the period of restricted lake access.

**11. Pfd use/boat markings.** Each contestant must wear and fully secure a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) whenever the boat is operating above wakeless speed. Boats must display any identifying marking provided by tournament officials at all times.

**12. Prohibited communication.** Cellular telephones, CB and marine radios are allowed in boats, but may only be used for personal or emergency purposes. Any use involving fishing information is strictly prohibited during tournament hours.

**13. Tackle, bait and methods.** Bait, tackle, and fishing methods that are legal according to Utah fishing regulations will be allowed.

**14. Encroachment.** When faced with a situation involving fishing in close proximity to other boats or fishing in or through water actively being fished by another team, teams are asked to communicate in a courteous and civil manner. If a problem arises teams are strongly encouraged to take steps to come to a mutually acceptable solution. This applies to tournament and non-tournament boats.

**15. Bag limit/size limits/measuring.** The tournament limit per team/per day is six (6) walleyes, unless otherwise specified by the tournament director. Anglers may have in possession up to a legal limit of fish if desired. All walleyes presented for weigh-in must be a minimum of 12 inches in length. Fish are measured laying on a flat surface, from the tip of the closed mouth to the end of the relaxed tail fin. Each team may have in possession only one walleye 24 inches or more in length for each team member.

**16. Culling.** Replacing a live, previously caught fish with a larger caught fish is permitted during a fishing day. When a team has reached the prescribed legal bag limit this must be done immediately. At no time may contestants continue to fish while possessing more than the legal bag limit. Culling of dead fish is not allowed.

**17. Running lights.** All running lights must be on and operating at the time of morning check-in at the launch ramp. Any boat without lights operating properly will lose their flight placement, must blast-off last and will not be allowed to blast-off until, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, travel without running lights is safe. At minimum, running lights must be left on until arrival at the boater's first fishing stop.

**18. Morning check-in/blast-off.** All boats must check-in with the Tournament Director before launching each day. The Tournament Director will check running lights, livewells and required safety equipment. Once in the water, all boats will wait in a designated area for their assigned boat number to be called. Then the boats will proceed in single file through the wakeless area until it is safe to come up on plane. Any team that does not answer the call of their boat number for any reason, including being late, not paying attention or boat problems, will lose their place in line and move to last.

**19. Breakdowns/emergencies.** Tournament participants are not permitted to leave their boat or touch another boat, except in an emergency or in the event of major equipment failure. In the case of a breakdown, a team may accept a tow with any other boat on the water. While in tow, the team accepting assistance is not permitted to continue fishing. However, the contestants rendering assistance may continue fishing.

In an emergency, a team may elect to have one team member stay with the disabled craft while the other team member rides to the weigh-in site in another tournament boat with the day's catch. The team member remaining behind may not continue to fish. Fish may only be transported to the weigh-in in another tournament participant's boat.

Testing of a participating boat during restricted lake access times is allowed when necessary to deal with boat-related problems, but must have prior approval from the Tournament Director. Any attempt at fishing is not allowed.

**20. Afternoon check-in.** All tournament boats are required to notify officials at the end of the day to ensure all contestants return safely, regardless of whether the team has fish to weigh that day.

## Scoring

**21. Weigh-in.** Once fish are presented at weigh-in they become a team's "official catch" for the day, and Tournament Officials assume possession to measure, weigh and record as such. A contestant cannot touch the fish while an official takes measurements. A team may only present fish that are caught during tournament hours by members of that team, and may select one "big fish" to weigh separately.

**22. Scoring penalties.** A team presenting dead fish, as judged by Tournament Officials, will have a two-tenths (.2) pound penalty subtracted for each dead fish. Deliberate rough or careless handling of fish while culling is grounds for disqualification. Attempting to weigh fish less than 12-inches will accrue a one (1) pound penalty for each undersized fish. Under-sized fish will not count in a tournament weight. If the number of submitted fish exceed the tournament limit, only the six smallest fish will count, plus an extra one (1) pound will be subtracted. A team arriving late for weigh-in will be penalized one (1) pound for each minute late up to 15 minutes. Teams over 15 minutes late will be penalized their entire weight for the day. Late arrival for afternoon check-in eliminates a team from any big fish prize for that day's fish.

**23. Standings/ties.** Final standings will be determined by the actual weight of fish submitted by a team minus any penalties. Standings will be ranked with the heaviest total first and the rest in descending order.

In case of a tie, the team weighing the greater number of fish will prevail. If there is still a tie, the prize money for the position will be added to the prize money for the next position(s), split equally among the teams that are tied, and the position shall be considered a tie. (Example: In a two-way tie for fifth place, each team would receive half the combined cash awards for fifth and sixth places and be considered tied for fifth place.)

## General

**24. Spirit of the rule.** The intent of this tournament organization is to advance the sport of walleye fishing in Utah in an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and fair play. Tournament Officials may alter or change these rules at any time. Interpretation of the rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. All decisions are final.

**25. Disqualification.** Any contestant or team found to be in violation of these tournament rules or local, state, or federal laws or regulations will be subject to disqualification. A disqualified team forfeits its entry fee and any team prizes or winnings associated with the team's participation in the tournament.

**26. Protest policy.** Only registered contestants and tournament officials have the right to protest the actions of another team or contestant. Any protest must be submitted in writing no later than one hour after the day's fishing ends. A \$50 protest fee must accompany the protest. If the protest is found to be valid, the fee will be returned to the person making the protest. If not found valid, the fee will not be returned. The Tournament Director will make the final decision on any protest using any means he/she sees as necessary, including the appointment of a committee, and can only consider what is stated in writing in the protest submission. Statements will be taken from all parties involved and a ruling by the Tournament Director will follow as soon as possible. Anyone observing a suspected infraction is urged to avert a problem by alerting the would-be offender. **KNOW THE RULES!**

**27. Ethics and sportsmanship.** Contestants are required to do all in their power to protect and preserve their daily catch. All tournament participants shall practice good sportsmanship and treat others with courtesy at all times, on and off the water. Unsportsmanlike conduct and cheating will result in disqualification.

**28. Tournament protection rule.** Any act or inflammatory statement by a contestant during the pre-fishing or tournament that is, in the opinion of Tournament Officials, detrimental to the tournament, to any of its sponsors, to permitting agencies or their officers (such as rangers, fishery biologists, etc.), or damaging to organized fishing, may result in disqualification.

**29. Use of alcoholic beverages and narcotics.** Participants may not have in possession or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, barbiturates, marijuana, or any other illegal or controlled substance during tournament hours unless prescribed by a physician. Violators will be immediately disqualified.

**30. Awards presentation attendance.** Attendance at the awards presentation is an act of respect for others, and contestants are strongly encouraged to consider this as part of their commitment to the tournament.