

# Washington Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament

## Official Rules and Regulations 2026

- 1. ELIGIBILITY-** Entries accepted as two person teams only with additional Youth 17 years old or under. Any applicant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult partner. Entry may consist of the following: 2 Adults as a team, 1 Adult with 1 Youth, or 2 Adults with an additional 1 Youth. Only 4 poles maximum may be used regardless of team structure.
- 2. REGISTRATION-**The entry fee is \$500 per team additional youth is free. Entry includes **COMBINED BIG STRINGER PAID 10 PLACES, BIG STRINGER AND BIG FISH SATURDAY AND BIG STRINGER AND BIG FISH SUNDAY, AND SPECIAL EVENT, WITH AUCTION TO BE HELD SATURDAY EVENING.** No more than 125 teams may fish the tournament. Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Cancellations will be filled from a first come first serve standby list. Online registration closes at noon on **June 25<sup>th</sup>**. All other entries close 5:00 PM on **Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> 2025.**
- 3. GOVERNOR'S CUP TROPHY TEAMS-** A resident of any state may request to represent their state. (One member of the team must be a resident of that state).
- 4. 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 the Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament do for ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns hereby release and forever discharge the Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament, The Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament Committee, Lake Roosevelt Walleye Club, the tournament directors and any and all sponsoring companies, entities and individuals, their heirs, successors, administrators and assigns, for any and every claim, demand, action, or right of action whatever kind or nature, neither in law or in equity, arising from any bodily injury or personal injuries, known or unknown, death or property damage resulting or to result from any accident which may occur as a result of participation in the Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament activities or any activities in connection with the Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament whether by negligence or otherwise. We further release all officials, staff, participating sponsors 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 news media without royalties or prior consent may use photographs, films, videotapes taken for commercial purposes". This release contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.
- 5. PRE-FISHING-** Water is closed to all pre-registered persons and potential contestants at 4:00 PM Friday before the official tournament begins. People who are on the water for any reason after this time will not be eligible to be a contestant in this tournament.

- 6. REGULATIONS-** Each entrant must possess a valid Washington State Fishing License. Contestants will be responsible for knowing the WGCWT rules as well as state and local rules and regulations that pertain to the tournament waters. Specific local rules will be highlighted at the mandatory rules meeting. U.S. Coast Guard and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the National Park Service rules and regulations will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified by the tournament director.
- 7. TEAMS-** Contestants must enter as two-person teams or 2 adults and one additional youth 17 years old and under. A Maximum of 4 poles may be used despite an additional Youth. Any change of team members must be approved by tournament officials and a new application must be signed. Only two member teams may occupy the boat during the tournament.
- 8. FISHING AREA-** Fishing will be allowed only within the boundaries of the tournament. Boundaries will be from Grand Coulee Dam to the Canadian Border and the Napoleon Bridge on the Kettle River. Contestants may not leave their boat at any time (except in the case of an emergency, contestant(s) may leave their boat to enter another contestant's boat or rescue craft; or by specific permission of the tournament officials or in the event of weather conditions that pose a threat to personal safety) nor may they operate their boat outside the designated tournament area during the tournament hours. Fishing is not allowed in the Marina or within 100' of any net pen.
- 9. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS-** Tournament Headquarters will be Happy Dell Park in Kettle Falls, WA.
- 10. TOURNAMENT HOURS-** Start time for the first flight will be 6:00AM on June 26th and 6:00AM on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent flights will start approximately 5 minutes after the preceding flight. First flight will check-in at 3:00PM on Friday with subsequent flights at 30-minute intervals. On Saturday first flight check-in will be at 2:00PM with subsequent flights at 30-minute intervals. Contestants who leave earlier than their assigned flight time will be disqualified for that day. Once checked in contestants are prohibited from fishing or further practice except during designated fishing hours. Boats may not be used for fishing until the tournament hours the following day. The tournament officials reserve the right to postpone or cancel daily competition if, in the opinion of the officials, weather conditions exist that pose a threat to the safety of teams and patrol personnel.
- 11. INSPECTIONS-** All boats will receive an inspection prior to launching. All boats will launch at Kettle Falls Marina boat ramp. No boat may have walleye onboard prior to the start of the tournament. All boats must display identifying markings as required by WDF&W Tournament Rules and tournament officials such as a Contestant Banner. Boats, tackle and equipment may be inspected at any time before, during, or after the tournament. All boats meet or exceed State and Federal safety requirements.
- 12. TACKLE-** Artificial and live bait as allowed by Washington State Fish and Game Laws. Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat.

**13. BOAT OPERATIONS-** Each contestant must observe safe boat conduct, no wake zones and the utmost boating courtesy at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a CG approved PFD when the: primary motor is in operation (except for when trolling). All teams must depart from Kettle Falls Marina under the direction of tournament officials. The order of departure will be announced at the drivers meeting. Team boats may not come within 50 feet of other team boats when fishing (except for official patrol boats).

**14. FISHING-** Teams will not be allowed more than SIX (6) fish in the boat at any time. No minimum size on fish. A TOTAL OF SIX MAY BE WEIGHED EACH DAY. The release of fish that float to the surface is not allowed and may result in disqualification.

**LIVEWELL REQUIREMENTS-FUNCTIONAL FRESHWATER FILL** (with overflow) **AND AERATOR. ALL FISH MUST BE KEPT IN GOOD**

**CONDITION.** While fishing the tournament only target fish may be kept (such as in a walleye tournament only walleye may be in the contestant's boat).

**15. SCORING-** Each team may weigh up to 6 walleye, if any fish show signs of poor handling these fish WILL NOT BE COUNTED. Each dead fish will be penalized 8oz. More than two dead fish will result in disqualification for that day. Final weight is determined after all penalties have been assessed. A DEAD FISH IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR "BIG FISH AWARD". The weighmaster's decision is final.

**16. CHECKING IN AND LATE PENALTY -** All Boats must check in at the tournament check point set up at Kettle Falls Marina and proceed to the weigh-in dock whether the team has fish or not. The team number and arrival time will be recorded upon arrival at the checkpoint. Late arrivals will be penalized 10% of that day's catch weight and will be eliminated from any big fish prizes. Boats over 15 minutes late will be completely disqualified for that day. In the event of a backlog of boats at the check in station, boats that arrive prior to the deadline will not be penalized.

**17. ALCOHOL-** No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the contestant's boats during tournament hours. Any contestant visibly intoxicated will not be allowed to fish that day. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

**18. SPIRIT OF THE RULE-** It is the intention of this tournament to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Un sportsmanlike conduct and cheating will result in disqualification. Interpretation of the rules shall be left to tournament officials and all decisions will be final.

**TRAILER PARKING-** Designated parking is at the Old Kettle Falls Picnic Area to save spaces in the regular parking area for the public fisherman. Tournament participants must park in the designated area and use the provided shuttles unless you have made prior arrangements with the tournament director.

**19. PROTEST POLICY-** 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(s), in person, no later than ½ hour after the close of the fishing that day. A \$100.00 protest fee must accompany any protest offered by the contestant. A three-person committee appointed by the tournament officials will convene to investigate and make

a decision regarding the protest. The PROTEST Committee and their agents are authorized to utilize polygraph examinations and any other investigative techniques in order to determine the validity of the protest or the charge against any contestant. The decision of the Protest Committee shall be a majority vote and shall be final in all cases. Contestants waive any right or opportunity to appeal the decision of the Protest Committee to a higher authority including any court of jurisdiction in this or any other state. If the protest is found invalid, the fee will not be returned. Any person found violating the rules may be immediately disqualified and the reason for said disqualification announced at the Tournament Headquarters Area.

- 20. WITHDRAWAL POLICY-** Entry fee refunds will be made only if the team gives written notification of withdrawal. A service charge of a \$100.00 will be assessed against refunds made due to withdrawal from the tournament (\$400.00 will be returned).
- 21. DRIVERS MEETING-** A drivers meeting will be held at happy Dell Park, Tournament Headquarters at 5:30PM on Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>. At least one contestant from each team must attend the meeting.
- 22. CASH WINNERS-** All cash winners must provide their SSN prior to receiving their check.
- 23. CHANGE OF RULES-** Tournament Director(s) reserve the right to change or modify these rules at any time up to and including the Drivers Meeting.