

40th Annual

LAKE PEPIN OPEN

Tournament Directors: Caleb Buenger 507-272-9278

: Steve Iverson 507- 438-8746

TOURNAMENT RULES

Total payback (90%) for this event is based on a 50 boat field with a \$200.00 entry fee.

1st \$3,000 and plaques 2nd \$1,800 and plaques 3rd \$1,300 and plaques 4th
\$900 5th \$650 6th \$500 7th \$450 8th \$400

1. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

- Contestants must enter a two-person team. Any person under age 16 must be teamed with a parent or legal guardian.
- Under age 18 must have written parental permission.
- The first 50 entry forms submitted with the \$200.00 entry fee will be the tournament field.
- Optional Big Fish Pot is a \$20.00 entry fee per boat for the two days.
- Each contestant must have in their possession a valid Minnesota or Wisconsin fishing license, if required by law.
- Sponsors, tournament directors, and anyone assisting in tournament operations, their agencies, agents, etc. are not responsible for deaths, injuries, damages, liability, theft, fire, or any loss of any kind to entrants.
- Each entrant upon signing an entry form will in effect be signing a waiver form.
- Entry fee refunds may be subject to a service charge. Refunds will be made only if proper notification is made to the Tournament Director at least 10 days prior to the tournament date.
- Pre-tournament headquarters will be: o Walleye Searchers of Minnesota o P.O. Box 5812 o Rochester, Mn
55903-5812 o E-Mail
<http://walleyesearchers.org>

2. ORIENTATION and RULES MEETING

- The Orientation meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. Friday, September 26th, 2025 before the tournament at the location designated on the announcement flyer (Elks Club, Red Wing MN). Calcutta Auction to follow orientation meeting.
- At least one member of each team must attend unless excused by the tournament director or co-director.

3. FLIGHT ORDER

- **Day One** - Boat # will be determined by the boat # selection process. Entries received on or before Monday September 8th, 2025 will be eligible for early drawing. Drawing for boat # of entries received will be on September 16th, 2025. Entries received after September 8th, will be in order as received.
- **Day Two** - 1st place finish on day 1 will leave the launch site as boat #1, 2nd place on day 1 will leave as boat #2, and so on thru the field. Any ties for a position will be determined by the original Boat #. Boat numbers will be re-issued during the check-in for day two. **Please be sure to return boat numbers after the end of Day 1. Failure to do so could end in disqualification of that day's weight. You will be put to the back of the field for Day 2.**

4. SAFETY

- All boats are required to meet US Coast Guard safety regulations as well as all Minnesota and Wisconsin regulations.
- Each contestant is required to wear properly secured Coast Guard approved chest type PFD at all times when the main engine is operating above idle speed.
- No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by contestants during tournament hours.
- Tournament Officials may cancel, delay or restrict tournament waters and/or hours in case of severe weather.
- In event of severe weather, contestants are allowed to pull into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to resume fishing.
- Safe boating conduct and all safety precautions must be observed at all times.
- **All teams must report in at the end of each day, for SAFETY reasons, even if you don't weigh any fish.**

5. TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES AND HOURS

- Fishing is permitted in Pool 4 between the Red Wing Dam and the Alma Dam, and from Railroad track to Railroad track.
- Tournament hours will be 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on both Saturday and Sunday.
- No contestant is permitted on tournament waters between 4:00 P.M. on the Friday before the tournament and 3:00 P.M. on Sunday the last day of the tournament, except during tournament hours.

6. PENALTIES

- **SHORT FISH PENALTY ***** Any boat bringing in a **Short Fish**, that is less than **15** inches, will be **DISQUALIFIED FOR THAT DAY!!!** Fish will be measured with "The Judge" ruler. Fishermen may calibrate their ruler against "The Judge" ruler at the Rules Meeting or before the first days launch.
- **LATE PENALTY ***** Up to 15 minutes late the team will lose ½ of the fish weight. After 15 minutes late the team will be **DISQUALIFIED FOR THAT DAY.**
- **CHEATING ***** Any person/team caught cheating will be **DISQUALIFIED FROM THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT.**

7. EQUIPMENT AND TACKLE

- All Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters regulations will apply to all fishing methods.
- Only two (2) lines per contestant will be allowed in the water at any time.
- Radio communications (including cellular phones) during tournament hours, except for emergency, is prohibited.
- All fish must be caught in a conventional manner on hook and line.
- This is a catch and release tournament. Only live and/or apparently fresh fish may be weighed. Judgment of tournament officials is final. All fish must be kept in an aerated live well. Stringers, boat bags, wire baskets, etc. are prohibited. All fish not released become property of the Walleye Searchers Club.

8. FISH, SIZE AND LIMITS

- Only walleye, sauger and saugeye are eligible for weigh-in.
- Minimum length of any eligible fish will be 15 inches.
- **Sorting or culling of fish is a violation of MN State Law.**
- The daily tournament limit will be (7) fish per boat and weigh the (5) biggest fish.
- The 6th & 7th fish, that will not be weighed, may be released by the anglers at the weigh in ramp under the supervision of the LPO tournament personnel. If the fish is not releasable then the fish must be handed over to the tournament personnel at the weigh in site.

9. SCORING • Prizes will be awarded based on the total weight in pounds per team. Ties will be broken by the second

day weight.

- Prizes will be awarded following the final tournament weigh-in.
- Prizes are awarded to teams, except for big fish, which is awarded to the individual. **10. PROTESTS**
- Protests may be filed with the **Tournament Committee** only by a contestant or a Tournament Official.
- All protests must be filed no later than thirty minutes after the close of that fishing day and must be accompanied by a \$50.00 protest fee.
- Findings of the Tournament Committee are final and may not be appealed to any higher authority.
- Protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

- Contestants will be responsible for applicable taxes on all prizes.
- In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that all rules have loopholes and **"The Spirit of the Rule"** will apply in all judgment cases.
- Any team in violation of the rules will be disqualified and the reason for disqualification will be announced at the weigh-in.
- Disqualification for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee.