**Tournament Guidelines of Walleye Searchers of Minnesota**

**Last Updated: 3/27/2025**  
  
1. These Tournament Guidelines are in effect for all club tournaments.

2. By participating in a club tournament, said participant agrees to abide by all of the guidelines for club tournaments.   
  
3. All participants in club tournaments agree to abide by all of the laws, rules and regulations of the governing body of any location where the tournament may be held.   
  
4. The member whose boat is used to fish in the tournament will be paid $40 by the other member for the use of the boat. Club tournament payout, non-boater fees and any fuel stipends shall be reviewed annually at the March meeting and approved in April prior to drawing partners for the April tournament. Dock fees and bait are to be divided equally between the two anglers, unless otherwise agreed upon.

5. The maximum number of anglers per boat will be 2, no exceptions. The maximum number of lines will be 4 per boat.   
  
6. Points earned in the monthly club tournaments will count towards the overall point’s total. Each person’s best four tournaments will be used for the final score of the season.   
  
7. Only Walleye, Sauger or Saugeye shall be allowed to measure and counted for points. Any further reference to "FISH" within these guidelines is to mean Walleye, Sauger or Saugeye.   
  
8. The vice president is the official Director of all club tournaments. It is the members responsibility to get the official tally count to the vice president at completion of the event (refer to section 11 & 12 for late returns.). The count will be tallied, and points will be awarded as follows in section 10.  
  
9. A length limit of fifteen inches per fish shall be in effect at all tournaments. A person having a “SHORT” fish will not be allowed. Fish are to be measured with their mouth closed and touching the “zero” reading on the ruler and then pinch the tail to obtain the longest reading. All fish will be measured by using the official “Judge Ruler”. An alternate ruler may be used if calibrated for accuracy by the official ruler and an officer is a witness to the accuracy. The fish length will be converted to weight by using the weight conversion chart, listed at the bottom of the guidelines. All fish shall be measured to the nearest ¼”, rounding up for any fish between marks. Therefore, a fish measuring 16-3/8” would be scored at 16- ½” Fish must have a minimum length of 15 inches to round up a quarter of an inch. A 14 ¾” inch fish will not count as 15 inches.   
  
10. Ties in club tournaments shall be broken by “The team measuring the longest fish”. All fish shall be considered for tie breakers. If both teams remain tied after longest fish is determined, then both teams will be awarded points for the higher place (tied for 3rd and 4th, both teams get 3rd place points).

11. Points shall be awarded based on a 100-point system for 1st place. 2nd place points shall be determined by dividing the second-place team’s weight by the first-place team’s weight, this percentage shall be the awarded points. All the following places shall be calculated in the same manor. Points shall be rounded to 2 decimal places.

Example as follows:

1st place 32.15 lbs 100 points

2nd place 27.57 lbs 85.75 points 27.57/32.15=.85754

3rd place 27.23 lbs 84.70 points 27.23/32.15=.8469

12. Each member who fishes in a tournament but fails to catch any fish shall receive 1 point.  
  
13. If you are forced to fish alone for any reason you will be awarded 15% bonus of your total weight. If you choose to fish alone, you will only be awarded the exact weight. If your partner does not show up to fish, you will be allowed the 15% bonus. In the event that a member fishes alone, the member is required to take a picture of the fish on the judge Ruler. Showing the whole fish on the bump board to the best of the angler’s abilities. Picture must also be timestamped using the timestamp app. The timestamp app a free download. All pictures will be verified by the tournament director.

14. As a guideline, the start of each tournament shall be 7:00 AM and the return shall be at 3:00 PM. Local conditions and participating members’ majority decision shall take precedence over start and end times. The location of the launch site shall be the site to launch and return, unless announced by the tournament official prior to the start of the tournament. Boats shall take off in the order they were drawn at the monthly meeting, the last boat drawn at the monthly meeting shall be responsible to safely flight out teams as he or she sees fit. If the last boat drawn is not present on the day of the tournament the next boat is ascending order shall flight out the boats. Any team leaving before they were properly signaled to do so or out of order shall be eliminated. If all the boats are present and ready to flight out, the tournament can be started if the signaling boat chooses to do so. You must be within sight of the take off point and off plane by the designated return time or the following penalties shall apply:

A. Up to five minutes: Deduct 1/2 the total weight.

B. Over five minutes: No points awarded.

15. The Vice President shall be the official timekeeper. A boat towing another boat due to mechanical problems shall have no points deducted from any member involved in the assistance of the disabled boat, including the members in the disabled boat.   
  
16. A member who wishes to fish a tournament but is unable to attend the meeting prior to the tournament shall notify a club officer or member prior to the meeting. If a member signs up to fish after the pairings have been selected they will not be eligible for any points, but shall be eligible for any prizes. If you sign up late you must have a partner to fish with.   
  
17. A member who has been drawn to fish in a tournament but is then unable to fish shall notify a club officer. Failure to notify someone, unless there is a valid reason, will result in that person being ineligible to fish in the next club tournament. Failure to contact your partner at least 15 minutes before the scheduled take off time will result in that person being ineligible to fish the next club tournament.   
  
18. Any member using a cell phone or other device to communicate with another angler to locate fish will be disqualified.

19. Tournament format:

A. Tournament boat mates will be drawn at the regular meeting prior to each tournament. The first boater drawn during pairing shall have preference of fishing out of his boat. Pairing of boatmates will be a random drawing. If you refuse to fish with the drawn partner, you will not be eligible to fish the monthly tournament.

B. There is no boater or non-boater category, all members who wish to fish will be placed in the drawing. If the last angler is not paired, they can fish alone.

C. If the selected pairings have fished in a previous tournament together during that calendar year, the second name drawn will be placed back in the drawing and a new name will be drawn. This will eliminate the same people fishing as boat mates in the tournaments all the time.

D. A total of the top five fish per team will be in effect for each tournament.

E. Fish are considered legally caught if hooked gill plate and forward.

F. There will be no set limit on the number of fish caught, but they must abide by the measurement rules in section 9 and may not exceed any limit set forth under state and local laws of the fishing waters.

G. There will be no boundaries for the water. You may fish anywhere that you would like. It is up to the team in the boat to determine where they fish. This includes all boarder waters and tributaries. You must follow the state and local laws for fishing inland waters if you decide to fish outside the train tracks on the Mississippi river.

H. All boats will take off from the same location, no trailering to another location will be allowed.

I. Wild Card events will require all teams to remain within the pool or a selected body of water for the event. No locking out of that pool will be allowed.

20. Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

1. Club members shall determine the value of prizes for each season prior to the start of each fishing season. This decision should be based off previous seasons, tournament committee suggestions, member suggestions and the financial standing of the club.
2. If a member is required to fish alone, they shall receive both prizes.

21. The club will hold 6 regular tournaments starting in April and ending in September. There will also be a volunteers’ tournament that will be held in October. You must qualify for the volunteers’ tournament by earning a minimum of 15 volunteer points from the day after the volunteers’ tournament of the previous year to the day of the meeting in October of the current year.

1. In the Championship tournament all places will be awarded prizes. Prizes will be voted on by the club in the October meeting prior to the tournament.

22. To hold a tournament, there must be a minimum of 3 boats and 5 club members signed up for each tournament.

23. For the safety of club members there must be at least one public launch open to hold a tournament. The tournament director and or board members of the club also have the right to cancel a tournament due to severe weather conditions. If a tournament is canceled due to weather or river conditions the tournament will be postponed to the following weekend or 7 days later. If the tournament is canceled for the 2nd time. It will then be canceled for the year.

23. The objective is for tournaments to be fun and provide members with a chance to try and learn new fishing techniques. By not fishing with the same person all the time, each person may learn something new. All the above items are only guidelines and can be interpreted differently. Any disputes during the day of the tournament shall be settled immediately before reading the results. The vice president shall decide on how to handle the resolved dispute, if the vice president is not preset the next officer in command shall rule. If no officers are present the members who fished the tournament shall take a vote to settle the dispute. All decisions are final, any member who disrupts the harmony of Walleye Searchers or has broken the tournament guideline rules more than 2 times will be asked not to participate in any scheduled events.