

## ***Colorado's Premier Walleye Tournament Series***

### **Registration and General Information**

Each team must complete, electronically agree, and submit an official "Colorado Walleye Trail" (CWT) entry form found at [Alleyesonfishing.com](http://Alleyesonfishing.com) or [Coloradowalleyetrail.com](http://Coloradowalleyetrail.com) under the CWT tournament tab or the main page. **The entry fee for each team is \$400 per event, plus a \$30 administrative/ insurance/team of the year fee. Each team's payment is required at the time of registration. Electronic payment, check or money order are the only forms of payment acceptable to register for Colorado's biggest Walleye tournament series.**

1. To participate contestants must enter as **two-person teams, per boat**. Any person under 18 years of age must be teamed with a parent or guardian. Any change of team members must be approved by representatives from the CWT and a new application must be submitted and approved by an authorized CWT representative. Entry registration must be completed and received by 11:59pm MST Monday, at least 4 days before the event. Once registered and processed, a PIN number will be sent via email after registration closes. This PIN number is randomly selected for your team. Your PIN number will be used for your scorecard and posting of the leaderboard. Other than CWT / AEOF Staff and yourself, nobody will know your PIN until after the event. This is for your anonymity to alleviate tail-piping and to create a neutral field. Do not share your identifying PIN unless you want others to know your identity.
2. Boat numbers will be given out at the mandatory Tournament Rules meeting. Your boat position will be randomly selected and will be your boat position through the entirety of the tournament. Once you complete the rules meeting you will be given a scorecard.
3. Refunds: Entry fee refunds will be made only if CWT Staff receives a written cancellation notice 7 days prior to the tournament date. A cancellation fee of \$125 will be assessed for each tournament cancelled.
4. Tournament Cancellation: In the event there are less than 15 boats registered for a tournament, the event will be cancelled and rescheduled. Reschedules / cancellations can happen at any time up until the start of the event. In the event of extreme weather, causing unsafe travel or unsafe lake conditions, the event will be rescheduled. All registrations will automatically be transferred to a rescheduled date/location. The same cancellation rules will apply to all rescheduled events. Participants are required to complete the steps listed in item #5 to get a partial refund should they not be able to fish the rescheduled event. Should an event be partially cancelled or fishing time limited, the event will be counted as a completed event.
5. The CWT is a Ranger Cup sponsored event. Ranger will pay additional monies to top finishing Ranger boat owners who have registered with Ranger Boats through their Ranger Cup program. If you are a Ranger Boat owner and participate in Ranger Cup, you need to provide this information to CWT staff at the end of each event if you are the top placing Ranger Boat owner. Participants must comply with Ranger Cup apparel guidelines outlined in Ranger Cup rules to be eligible.

6. Prizes will be distributed at the conclusion of the tournament during an awards ceremony if time and circumstances permit. CWT checks will be mailed to the winning teams within 7-10 business days following the conclusion of the event. Each participant that receives prize money agrees to cash their prize check within 60 days from the issuance of the prize check or the prize check will be canceled, and the prize monies will be forfeited to AEOF / CWT.
7. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will be determined by the team with the highest total weight on day one of the event. If the tied teams happen to be tied after comparison of the day 1 total weights, the second tiebreaker will be the team with the biggest single fish caught during the tournament. If a winner cannot be determined at that point the teams will be considered a tie and the prizes for the tied position will be combined with the place below and will be split equally between the tied teams.

## **Pre-Tournament Practice & Rules Meeting**

All participants fishing a Colorado Walleye Trail event will comply with the rules and regulations of the governing body of water for the CWT's event location and the park rules. All participants fishing in the CWT must be off the water with boats trailered by 6:00 pm on the Friday prior to the event. Participants must plan to be off the water on time. In case of an emergency or unforeseen situation that would prevent a team from being able to comply with this rule, a member from the AEOF staff must be contacted for guidance at 970-227-0401 or 303-514-1078 prior to 6:00 pm. Violations of this rule will result in that team only being able to weigh four fish per day for the tournament. There will be no fishing, on the days of the event, outside the scheduled tournament times. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification for the tournament.

1. Any watercraft that will be used for the CWT tournament is required to undergo a mandatory ANS inspection and abide the regulations set forth for the body of water the CWT is fishing. It is the sole responsibility of the participants registered to follow the ANS procedures and be ready for the tournament at the official start time. If the participating team does not have their boat inspected prior to the event or fails the inspection, that team will forfeit their order of boat launch and will go to the end of the line and can only launch after successfully passing the required ANS inspection.
  - a. Watercraft is defined as any boat that is not a PWC (Jet Ski) that is able to hold two people and is 12ft or more in length and is motorized.
  - b. The minimum size motor attached to or is a part of the boat being used will be 10hp.
  - c. Kayaks, float tubes and other non-motorized single occupant watercrafts are not permitted in these CWT events.
2. The mandatory rules meeting / boat inspection will be held at 5:20 am on the first day of the event. On the second day of the event a mandatory boat inspection will be at 6:00 am. The location of the rules meeting will be announced after the conclusion of the registration period and will be at the boat launching area of the lake determined by the permit.
3. At the time of the rules meeting the participants will get their tournament bag that will include multiple things such as your team number, rules and regs, scorecard, and bump board. It is the responsibility of all participants to read and understand all the rules for this event. It is also the responsibility of the

participants to have an operating cell phone that has enough power and storage to meet the needs of the fish capturing process and downloading process.

4. Prior to the start of the event, it is highly recommended that all participants view the catch, photos, video record release (CPVR) procedure and understand the instructional videos on how to use the document each catch you wish to apply towards your virtual live well. Instructional video(s) can be found on the Colorado Walleye Trail web page at [Coloradowalleyetrail.com](http://Coloradowalleyetrail.com) or [Alleyesonfishing.com](http://Alleyesonfishing.com). No other form of pictures / videos will be permitted for submission unless directed by the CWT Staff, prior to the tournament.
5. At the end of the rules meeting the National Anthem will be played. At the end of the National Anthem participants will begin getting their boats lined up and ready for ANS inspection and to launch. Prior to launch the participating teams must pass through the ANS inspection area and then will have a live well check completed by AEOF / CWT Staff and your boat will be tagged. This is a catch, photo(S), and video recorded release tournament. At no time is a live well or portable container allowed to keep fish except for minnow-type bait that would be inspected by AEOF / CWT Staff.

## **Sportsmanship and Safety**

1. Each participant must always observe safe boating and follow the rules of the governing body of water and state law. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages, marijuana products or illegal drugs are not allowed in the tournament boats during tournament fishing hours. Participants must abide by all state laws and park regulations. Any participant cited for breaking any game and fish or state park regulation from 6:00 pm Friday until 6:00 pm Sunday could be disqualified, from the event at the discretion of the CWT Staff.
2. All tournament boats have the responsibility to carry and have all Coast Guard required safety equipment, to include a type IV throwable cushion, a fire extinguisher, and distress horn, flag, or whistle. It is recommended that all boats be equipped with a marine radio. Boats will be permitted to launch only from the predetermined launch location. There will be no off site or on the water inspections for any tournament unless directed by the CWT Staff. Any boat not checked in, inspected, and tagged by 6:30 am will be required to wait until all boats have launched and will lose their boat launching position for that day and will go out after all boats have left the starting area for the day.
3. Once all boats have launched, an air horn will sound. The air horn will indicate boats will need to start lining up according to their boat number (example 1-50). On day two the order will be reversed (example 50-1). The start boat will then be launched and will head out to the starting location of the lake. Tournament boats are to follow the start boat in a single line and follow the CWT start boat. The start boat will move to the middle of the lake far away from shore with the tournament boats following. At some point the start boat will turn 180 degrees and drive towards the field on the port side of the field, traveling parallel to the field. The start boat will signal each boat once it is alongside the start boat to takeoff.
4. The tournament hours are scheduled for 0700-1600 on day one and 0700-1500 on day two. Times are approximate. There may be circumstances when times will be adjusted for multiple flights or if boats are launched quickly and we are ready to start the event. If the launching of boats is slower than anticipated the start time could be delayed. All anglers will listen for the audible sound (air horn) signaling the

tournament will launch in 10 minutes. The official time will be considered GPS / wireless phone time, no other measurements of time will be considered, and it is the responsibility of each team to check in at the required time. If a team is late for check in, they will be disqualified for the day. The check in location will be at or near the same location of the launch that morning or a designated area provided during the Saturday morning rules meeting. The check in location / boat will be at the designated location 30 minutes prior to the end of the first listed finish time for that day. Each team must be within clear visual sight and acknowledged by CWT staff to officially be checked in for the day, using their laminated team number card provided in their angler's participation packet. If a team wants to check in earlier than 30 minutes prior to the end of the days fishing they will need to call the CWT Staff or designee and arrange a place to meet by the loading ramps to be officially checked in. Failure to check in or check in on time will result in you being disqualified for the day. Check in is mandatory and is for your safety so CWT can ensure everyone has returned safely for the day.

5. Tournament Staff boats may come alongside and board a boat to conduct inspections at any time. Participating boats should be respectful when fishing next to each other and stay approximately 75 feet away from each other. Participants should also stay a minimum of 75 feet away from a buoy being used by a tournament boat. At no time is a team allowed to drop a buoy if they are not actively fishing within 75 feet of the buoy they dropped. If this is a protested topic CWT Staff has the authority to penalize the violating team from a verbal warning all the way up to disqualification for the day.
6. No fishing information may be given to participants during tournament fishing hours by anyone in any capacity. Cell phones are allowed for safety purposes, documenting participant violations and for the use of the CPVR format. No contact between participants or non-participants is allowed during tournament hours. No binoculars/monocular are allowed during tournament hours. No internet access is allowed, nor is text messaging, paging, or walkie-talkies allowed during tournament hours.
7. Protests or allegations of misconduct by another tournament participant must be directed to the CWT Staff within 45 minutes of the boat check in time for the day. A protest must be in writing and explicitly state the alleged violation, identify the other angler, and state what time the alleged violation occurred. The written protest also needs to be accompanied with a cash protest fee of \$100 dollars that will be refunded if the stated allegations are found to be valid. The investigation into the allegation will be composed of staff from the CWT. Concerning a filed allegation, CWT Staff will investigate and will make a ruling which will be final and will NOT be eligible for appeal. If the allegation is unfounded or inconclusive the \$100 dollar protest fee will be forfeited and added to the event payout.
8. The CWT Staff may request phone records during any investigation of an alleged violation. All contestants agree to provide such records if requested to verify phone usage during tournament hours.
9. Each contestant must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device when the main motor is operating above idle and a wake is made. Contestants in violation of this rule will be disqualified for the day. This is in accordance with regulations and insurance riders for the event. All Coast Guard safety rules apply, including local liability insurance requirements. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, severe weather, participants may pull into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except when severe weather forces them to shore or upon permission of the CWT Staff or designee. If forecasted weather appears to be severe enough to warrant a cancelation of that day's event, CWT staff will travel the lake and sound an airhorn. All participants will immediately stop fishing and return to load their boats. At that time, the event for that day is officially over.

## Documentation of Fish

All CWT tournaments are a catch, photo(s) & video release (CPVR) event unless otherwise directed by CWT Staff. All tournament participants are not allowed to catch a fish, during tournament hours, and keep the fish on a stringer, basket, cooler, live well or possess any caught fish. For CWT tournaments, all fish determined to be documented by a team will be digitally captured and immediately returned to the water. This CPVR format is used to promote conservation and to limit the harvest of any fish out of a body of water during CWT events. Documentation of fish that a team wishes to digitally capture will be as follows.

1. For the tournament, one team member is required to have an operational cellular phone with the capabilities of capturing photos and videos and can send and receive text messages, as this is the only permissible way to capture and submit your catch.
2. Each team will be given a scorecard at the start of each day. The scorecard is a team's way of documenting their catch. Each scorecard will have 8 empty slots, a boat number and a confidential PIN number printed on the face of the score card. Teams will be allowed to fill their 8 slots (virtual live well) during that day with the fish of their choosing at the time of the catch.
3. When a fish is placed into their virtual livewell and one of the 8 slots is used, they need to do the following:
  - a. Take a photo of the fish on the provided official measuring board with the entire score card visible in the photo. **It is mandatory the photo be clear and legible, and your score card with your provided PIN and unique daily indicator be clearly visible in the photo.** The fish must be lying on its side on the provided measuring board for the photo. The mouth of the fish should be closed, and if possible, we highly recommend the tail be pinched when taking the photo.
  - b. With the fish's mouth touching the bump board end and the tail pinched, the anglers will review the length of the fish on the official measuring board. If the tail touches or goes over the quarter inch graduation line the angler will round up to the next quarter inch to determine the fish's length. (Example: If a fish's tail hits the line of 19 inches, the angler will record the length as 19 1/4". If a fish's tail shows 19 1/8", the angler will record the length as 19 1/4").
  - c. **It is the sole responsibility of the anglers to enter the correct length on their score card. When the photos are reviewed by CWT staff, the length of the fish will be verified and will only be adjusted down if the photo indicates. CWT staff will not adjust any measurement up if the photo indicates the anglers did not properly round the measurement to the next 1/4".**
  - d. Once the photo is taken and while the fish is in the same position, the video should be started to show the measurement of the fish and the angler picking the fish off the measuring board and dropping the fish into the water. **CWT staff highly recommends the video be started while the fish is in the same position as the photo to ensure if there are any issues with the photo submitted, the video can be used as a secondary form of confirming the length of the fish.**
  - e. The team must then document the digitally captured fish onto their scorecard, using one of the original 8 slots. This must be done within two minutes of the video release of the fish back into

the water. A team angler will hold the scorecard in front of their body and a photo will be captured of the filled in slot on the scorecard.

- f. The team will then submit the 2 photos and one video to the CWT Staff for verification by texting the information. When submitting the photos and video, it is also required to include your PIN number. CWT staff recommends a “dead” or blank photo be taken between each documented fish on your phone so there is an easily identifiable photo separating each entry. (For Example: Take a photo of the fish being measured, the release video and a photo of the angler with the completed scored card. Once your documentation of the catch is complete, take a blacked-out photo to separate the series of photos/video from each catch.)
- g. A team has now completed the documentation process for one fish. In review, for each slot used in their virtual live well they will have 2 photos and one video for each slot in their personal photo library. This library must be maintained for the duration of the tournament.
- h. **Once a fish is photographed, videoed, and placed on your scorecard it cannot be culled off your scorecard. If any portion of your submission is not followed correctly or any portion is unreadable the submission will be counted as using one of your slots but will not be verified and the length to weight conversion will not take place for that specific fish to be added to your daily total.**

In the event cell phone service is poor, anglers will send their catch info as soon as coverage is available. If there is poor or no coverage during the tournament day, at the conclusion of your fishing time one member will take the cell phone with your documented catches and immediately show it to CWT staff at the tournament photo check-in location. Each team must be in line within 30 minutes after the conclusion of their fishing day or the results will not be tallied unless otherwise directed by the CWT Staff.

- 1. Each team is allowed 8 fish in their virtual live well for the day. Once a team submits their 8<sup>th</sup> fish they are done fishing for the day and need to check in with the CWT Staff to complete the day.
- 2. On the scorecard the participants will circle their five best fish to have their best fish converted from length into weight. The weight will be determined using the Aim Walleye conversion chart. **The conversion chart starts at 14 inches so no fish can be verified or weighed under 14 inches in length.**
- 3. The total weight will then be tabulated and documented on the scorecard. The participant will tally their weight and place it in the comments box. CWA staff will tally the weight and place it in the total weight box. The participants’ official weight will then be initialed by the tournament staff and a team member. To ensure anonymity on day of the tournament, each team approaching the CWT scoring table will need to remain back from the official scoring area until asked to step forward. This is being done so others cannot hear or see a team’s weight.
- 4. There will be a leader board published at the end of day one. The leader board will not have boat numbers nor names on it. The leader board will have the individual weights for each team, but those weights will only be associated with the confidential PIN number issued to each team prior to the tournament. **At NO time will CWT staff share PIN numbers with anglers until the end of the event.**

## Team of the year and NTC spots

The CWT is granted four (4) Bass Pro/Cabela's National Team Championship (NTC) spots to be awarded to the top four teams who have fished three or more of the CWT points tournaments. **All four CWT points tournaments will count towards team of the year and NTC spots but only a team's best three finishes will be used to calculate team standings.**

1. Points will be awarded to teams based on their final placing in each point tournament as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place = 100 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 99 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place 98 points and so on.
2. Team of the year will be awarded to the team consisting of the same two anglers and finishing with the highest combined points total from their top three events.
3. NTC spots will be offered to the team of the year and the top three (3) CAPTAINS in the final points standings. The person listed as "angler 1" on the entry form is the Captain of the boat and all points follow the Captain (angler #1).
  - a. For example: If angler #1 fishes all four points tournaments with four different partners (angler #2) and finishes as one of the top four points holders, that Captain will be eligible for one of the NTC spots. That person is **not** eligible for team of the year considerations.
  - b. Angler #2 has no claim to the points earned during the points tournaments.
4. NTC spots will be offered to the team of the year and the remaining top three Captains. If one of those four spots cannot be filled, the spot will then be offered to the 5<sup>th</sup> best Captain and down from there until the spot can be filled. Up to the 10<sup>th</sup> place captain will be contacted and offered the open NTC spot. If NTC spots are not filled by a captain up to the 10<sup>th</sup> place finishing captain, the NTC funds will be used at the discretion of All Eyes on Fishing / CWT.
5. The four teams occupying NTC spots will be given additional money and/or prizes to help with travel expenses. The amount of additional money given to both team of the year and NTC Captains will vary based on the number of participants entered in the four CWT points events.
6. Team of the year will be awarded additional money and/or prizes.
7. Additional money will not be awarded to any Captain until they have officially entered the NTC.
8. The money will be paid to the officially registered captain two weeks prior to the NTC event.
9. If at any time a Captain receives money and does not attend the NTC for **ANY** reason, that Captain will be responsible for reimbursing the CWT within 30 calendar days of the CWT being made aware that Captain will not be attending the NTC. If the Captain fails to return the monies within the 30 days a late fee of \$100 per month will be added until those monies are returned to the CWT. In the event the Captain fails to return the monies, they will be barred from participating in the CWT events until the monies and late

fees are paid in full. If legal action is necessary to recover the CWT funds, the Captain is responsible for all legal costs and legal fees incurred during that process.

## **Side Pots**

The CWT will organize 2 side pot categories. No monies provided by entry fees will be diverted to side pot payouts. Side pots will be entered after the rules meeting on the morning of the first day with cash entry by each team wishing to participate. CWT will organize and administer the side pots for each event.

1. There will be a **BIG FISH** side pot.
  - a. At the end of each day there will be a big fish payout that will be awarded to the team with the biggest fish measured/weighed.
  - b. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the next biggest fish recorded on the teams score card. If the second fish on each team score card result in a tie, then the third fish and so on will be checked until the tie is broken. In the event both teams result in a 5 fish tie then the winning team will be decided by a coin toss.
2. The second side pot will be a one-day **CALCUTTA** payed out at the end of day one.
  - a. Each team entering the Calcutta will pay \$20 to enter and those teams will be randomly split into smaller groups. The team in each group with the biggest weight for that day will win that groups Calcutta.

## **SPONSOR MONIES/PRODUCT DONATIONS**

1. Individual sponsors will be given the opportunity to add funds/product donations to each side pot. Teams must enter the side pots to be eligible to win. All teams are automatically entered into the big fish side pot.
2. Sponsor monies/product contributions to each side pot will be announced prior to each event.