

## 2026 King of the Isle Rules:

1. The derby begins **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 6 am EST and ends July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 6 pm EST**. All fish must be weighed by **6:00 pm EST July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**. All contestants must be registered by **6am on the day you wish to fish to weigh in a walleye**. You may enter **multiple fish** in the derby, but can only take one place.
2. **Early Bird Entry:** If you enter between June 1 and June 20th you are qualified for a randomly selected cash award.
3. **Main Event: \$20 one time entry.** It is based on the overall Top 10 Heaviest Walleye entered during the duration of the derby. Only your biggest walleye qualifies (one place) for Main Event. You can register at weigh stations or online at: [Great Lakes Special Events](#)
4. **Youth Division: \$10 Entry** (15 years of age and younger at time of entry). Top (5) Overall Places will be paid by (2) age groups: 12-15 and, 11 and under. Payout will be based on 100% of entry fees plus \$100 sponsorship money. Youth can **only** enter in either Youth division or Main Event. Youth may only take one place with their biggest walleye.
5. **Women \$20 Entry** are eligible for Main Event Prizes, plus Queen of the Isle Trophy.
6. **Weekly Big Fish Award- We will have a weekly Big Fish Award for those entered in the Main Event (\$20).** The weekly Big Fish dates are 7/1 (6am)-7/4, 7/5-7/11, 7/12-7/18, 7/19-7/25, 7/26-7/31 (6pm). Fish must be caught/weighed by 6pm during eligible week. You are eligible to win multiple weeks. We will try to announce the winner on the following Tuesday Evening on King of The Isle Walleye Derby Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1ZNZVWnLPt/>
7. All fish must be caught in Pennsylvania Waters of Lake Erie/Presque Isle Bay. Walleye must be caught by hook and line from watercraft, or shore. Adult Anglers must have a valid PA Fishing License and abide by all sportfishing and boating laws.
8. Walleye must be weighed in at one of the following locations within 24 hours of catch: **Presque Isle Fish and Farm 2769 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Erie, PA 16505 814-520-5047 , East End Angler 4702 E. LAKE RD. ERIE, PA 16511 814-898-3474 , Poor Richard's 6821 W. LAKE RD. FAIRVIEW, PA 814-474-5623 or NECM 11950 E. Lake Rd. North East, PA 814-725-8244 during normal business hours.** Please check leaderboards to see if your fish may be in contention before weighing in. Be respectful and patronize these local businesses, they are volunteering their time and facilities for the derby.
9. It is the participants' responsibility to ensure that fish are free of ice or any foreign objects prior to being brought to the weigh in. Fish will be checked for any foreign objects or ice in mouth. You are eligible to enter your fish in other contests, but the stomach may be pulled and analyzed for the King of the Isle Walleye Derby.
10. Participants are eligible to fish on **charters or party boats**. Everyone on board does not need to be entered in the derby. However, a witness must be available to verify catch was made by registered participant.
11. Definition of a legal derby catch= **Minimal assistance by team member. Each contestant must reel in his/her own derby fish from strike to landing. No passing of the rod is allowed once the first turn of reel takes place.**
12. The fish may be netted by a non-derby participant.
13. Tie breakers: If a tie occurs, the earliest entered derby participant wins. Should it still result in a tie, the earliest registered weigh in time will win.
14. Anyone caught cheating or in violation of these rules will be disqualified. No entry fees will be returned, and that participant may be banned from any future events.
15. All protests must be made within 24 hours to Derby Officials. A \$100 protest fee may apply.
16. All decisions made by the Derby Committee are final. It is the intention of the supporters to provide an honest, sportsmanlike event. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgement cases. Competitors will be disqualified for any violation of the derby rules, with no refund of entry fee.
17. All Top 10 Main Event Finalists and Weekly Award Winners must be able to attend a polygraph or voice stress test on 8/8/26 at Presque Isle Fish and Farm. If you are selected for a test you will be notified a week in advance of time. All winning fish may be tested and analyzed.
18. Misconduct: Any inappropriate, improper, or abusive conduct by any participant towards any derby official, volunteer, or fellow participants shall be deemed a violation of the rules and may be subject to disqualification as determined by the Derby Committee.
19. Liability: Every reasonable precaution will be taken by the Derby Committee to protect people and property during the contest. However, neither the sponsors, nor Derby Committee, judges, volunteers or employees of the same are responsible for the safety of people or property of participants regarding accidents, theft, fire, vandalism, drowning or any other cause. The tournament committee is not responsible for emergency assistance. All participants further understand and agree to hold harmless members and aforementioned groups and individuals.
20. Award ceremony will be held at Presque Isle Fish and Farm 2769 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Erie, PA 16505 on Sunday 8/16/26 at 1:00 pm. Photographs/Video will be posted on social media.