



# TOURNAMENT RULES

Walleyes and Wailing Guitars Tournament  
Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026



## Eligibility:

1. All participants must possess a valid PA State fishing license with a Lake Erie Stamp.
2. Team captains must be 18 years of age before August 1, 2026.
3. Team must consist of a minimum of 2 people.
4. The tournament committee reserves the right to decline entry or participation by any person, team or boat, as deemed necessary, to ensure the tournament integrity, image, reputation, and relations with sponsors, participants, and supporting groups. Any occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct, foul language directed towards the staff or other participants, or other poor behavior will result in the entire team being disqualified and expelled from the event.
5. All participants must agree to abide by all Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission rules and regulations as well as all tournament rules. Failure to do so will result in disqualification without refund.
6. There will be no captains meeting for this event. **All team are required to register by the deadline below and send in a disclaimer Sunday morning between 5am and 6am and must receive a confirmation text prior to leaving the shoreline.** Disclaimer form is the last page of these rules. If you are unable to print this form to complete, there will be extra forms at the North East marina for pick up.

## Entry:

1. Entry is \$115 per boat. \$100 will be placed into the payout brackets. \$15 will be used to cover administrative expenses.
2. Entry is a separate biggest walleye award will be available at time of entry for \$10 per team. Each team can only weigh in 1 walleye and it must be clearly marked in the cooler at weigh in. This fish will be included in the 5 total allowed at weigh in. 100% payback to the winner.
3. Entry deadline is Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 11:59pm. No late entries will be accepted.
4. Entry can be completed online at [www.GreatLakesSpecialEvents.com](http://www.GreatLakesSpecialEvents.com) by selecting Wailing Walleye in the tournament's menu. For assistance in completing online registration contact the tournament director, Candie Wright, at (814) 450-6170.
5. In the event of a tournament cancellation, entry fees can either be refunded minus administrative fees totaling no more than \$10 per team or donated to our non-profit partner. Option will be chosen by team captain.

## Fishing:

1. This is an open communication event. Cell phones and other communication devices are allowed.
2. All teams and participants are fishing at their own risk. If the tournament is not cancelled prior to 5:00am, the hours will not be adjusted for weather or other factors and weigh in will commence on time. All tournament updates, cancellations, and other important notices will be posted on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/GreatLakesSpecialEvents](http://www.facebook.com/GreatLakesSpecialEvents).
3. Fishing start time is 6:00am. Boats may head out onto the lake after 5:00am once disclaimer has been sent it and received but cannot put lines in the water until 6:00am as shown on cell phone

or GPS. Teams may prepare equipment, set anchor, and check current GPS underwater information prior to 6:00am.

4. Fishing end time is 11:00am. If team has a fish on the line they can reel it onto the boat, however all lines must be pulled unless actively engaged in reeling in a fish.
5. Fishing is allowed in all Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie and its tributaries. Teams must depart from the North East marina. Teams may trailer their boat to the marina or drive over across the water but must be within the North East marina water area to take off prior to 6:00am. Once team is at the North East marina, **disclaimer can be sent and once receipt is confirmed**, team can head out onto the water.
6. All forms of fishing will be permitted. Trolling equipment is not required for this event. Teams must fish from a legally registered vessel on Lake Erie.
7. Each team has a 6-rod limit. This will allow for fair competition that includes the 2-man teams.
8. Teams will be allowed to keep the maximum 6 walleye per participant on the boat carrying a valid PA State fishing license with Lake Erie stamp.
9. The tournament committee reserves the right to alter any rule necessary in the best interest of the tournament and the safety of the participants.

#### Weigh-In

1. Weigh in will be held Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 at 12:00pm. All teams must be in line by 11:59:59am according to the clock held by the weighmaster. Any team arriving after that time will be disqualified.
2. Each team will be allowed to weigh in there 5 best walleyes. Teams should only bring the 5 walleye they are weighing in to the line. All additional walleye caught should be stored in a separate cooler and left in the boat or at your vehicle. **TEAMS CANNOT GIVE FISH TO ANOTHER TEAM IN THE TOURNAMENT.**
3. Walleye must be at least the minimum state required length of 15”.
4. Coolers should be reasonably dry. No loose water or ice is allowed. Teams may include a frozen block or bag of ice as long as they are sealed from water draining into the cooler or a frozen jug.
5. Score will be obtained by total weight of the 5-walleye combined.
6. Biggest walleye will be weighed separately and then added to your other 2 entries for a total team score.
7. All protests must be made within 15 minutes after final weigh-in to be considered. All protests are to be brought to the tournament director, in writing and will be reviewed by the tournament committee.
8. The tournament director reserves the right to assess a 10-point penalty to any team deemed in violation of any rule that does not constitute disqualification.

#### Awards

1. Place payout will be 15% of the total number of teams entered.
2. Winners of \$2000 or more are subject to standard federal 1099 tax regulations. GLSE reserves the right to request a valid W-9 for any one person collecting a total of \$2000 or more.
3. In the event of a tie, the team having the largest single walleye decides the place winner. The other will receive the award for the next prize place down.
4. Awards will be finalized and announced during the after-tournament celebration being held at the North East marina. For a full event schedule visit our tournament page at [www.GreatLakesSpecialEvents.com](http://www.GreatLakesSpecialEvents.com).