

## 2020 Southern Alberta Walleye Trail Rules

1. SAWT is a catch and release tournament. Please handle ALL fish caught with care.
2. All competitors must be paid/active members in good standing for the tournament season in which they are competing. SAWT Memberships are \$20.00. Membership will be kept on a master list with the tournament organizers.
3. Teams entered in the tournament must have at least one (1) member of their team present at Friday's Rules Meeting to be held at 6:00 pm (or as soon as EVERY team is registered).
4. Registration will be held on site Thursday from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
5. Each entrant is required to sign a waiver form before being allowed to compete in a SAWT tournament. Once signed, this waiver will stay in affect for the entire tournament season in which you are competing.
6. Entrants must be 16 years of age or older. If less than 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
7. Entry fee will only be returned if notice is given seven (7) days prior to the start of the tournament.
8. When registering Thursday, the team member operating the boat must provide verification of their boating license (where required by law).
9. All anglers must possess (where required by law) a valid fishing license and comply with all Alberta Fishing Regulations and SAWT tournament rules.
10. Each boat is required to pass a boat inspection each day of the tournament prior to start times.
11. Boat inspections will begin at 5:30 am. It is your responsibility to be on time and allow for traffic line-ups and waiting times.
12. Each boat is required to possess personal flotation devices (PFD) for each person(s) on board. These must be worn during tournament start/finish times and when under full power.
13. Each boat will be required to meet Canada Coast Guard Requirements including having a bailing bucket, sounding device, and oars.
14. Only two people are allowed in the boat during tournament hours except as expressly waived by the SAWT executives and members.
15. Any boat found in possession of alcohol will be DISQUALIFIED from the tournament.

16. Cellular phones are permitted for business and/or emergency use ONLY. Two-way radios are not permitted.

17. Pre-fishing hours are from 6:30 until 2:30 pm sharp the Thursday and Friday prior to the tournament. Pre-fishing is NOT allowed on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the tournament. During pre-fishing, NO FISH CAN BE HARVESTED, this is still a catch and release time for all participating boats and SAWT members.

18. Teams will be assigned a random number at registration on Friday. This number will reflect the order in which you leave the starting line the first day. The order is reversed for leaving the starting line on the second day.

19. All boats are required to display the decal with number for the purpose of identifying you/it as a tournament angler/boat. To be placed on the passenger (Port) side of boat for easy identification by tournament officials.

20. FISHING TIMES: First flight will fish from 6:30 am to 2:30 pm and second flight will fish from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm on both days. If there are less than 50 boats in a tournament we will proceed with one flight.

21. On start, each boat will be required to pass THROUGH two (2) buoys in a NO WAKE ZONE. ONCE CLEAR OF THE BUOYS, teams may throttle up. Slower boats are asked to SAFELY/IMMEDIATELY travel closer to the shore line to allow boat traffic to SAFELY pass. On finish, each boat will be required to THROTTLE DOWN PRIOR TO passing THROUGH two (2) buoys in a NO WAKE ZONE and CHECK IN WITH THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL. BUOYS ARE PLACED ACCORDINGLY FOR SAFETY PURPOSES. ANY BOAT FOUND NOT ADHERING TO THE FOREGOING RULE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT. REMEMBER: SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT!

22. Any team returning late to the finish line will lose 20% of their weight for every minute late. After (5) minutes, the day's total weight will be DISQUALIFIED.

23. MEASURING FISH: Only Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye are eligible for measuring. All fish will be measured in millimeters (mm) and translated to a pound (lb.) measurement for the purpose of calculating heaviest fish and total weight of all fish entered. All measuring boards will be provided by SAWT and one will be given to each team during boat inspection along with all other necessary paperwork. ALL measuring boards are to be returned at the end of each day with the memory card and fishing form in the bag provided by the SAWT.

PHOTO PICTURES: All fish are to be measured with the left side of the fish facing up (belly towards the angler). The full fish must be visible in the entire picture. Measured fish can be 45cm or larger when measured with their mouths closed and tails fully pinched. In the event a photo designates a fish to be scored is judged by SAWT to be un-scorable, a replacement fish will not be allowed. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be credited only at the discretion of SAWT officials and may result in team disqualification for the day or the event.

SCORING PHOTOS: While the fish is being held on the ruler, a "SCORING" photo must be taken of the fish which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The HEAD and TAIL of the fish must be included and shown clearly. The photograph must be taken of the left side of the fish only. A photo that does not show the list of qualifications above WILL NOT BE SCORED. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed. The fish must then be immediately released back into the water.

CATCH-PICTURE-RELEASE: In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the Catch-Picture-Release process requires that one fish be measured, photographed, and released as quickly as possible before the next fish can be processed.

SUBMITTING PHOTOS: A maximum of 4 pictures can be on each team's SD card, each of different fish, and one card is submitted per team per day. A team can take multiple pictures of fish but must delete all pictures except the ones the team would like to submit for measuring at the end of the day. It is the responsibility of each team to carefully review all pictures and ensure no duplicates are submitted. \*Any duplication of fish will automatically receive a weight of zero and the team may be disqualified at the discretion of the board.\* ABSOLUTELY no video editing devices are allowed on any boat at any time. All boards and SD cards are to be submitted immediately after coming off of the water.

24. MEASURING: All fish pictures will be reviewed at the end of each day with two randomly selected teams to attend and participate in judging each fish. Two non-competing volunteers will review the cards in team order and provide their measurement. Any discrepancies or concerns will be judged by the executive board who will have final say. During this review no objections will be heard. Once all fish have been measured and recorded, there will be a half hour grace period where anyone can bring up concerns, disagreements or protests. All issues will be addressed and resolved by the tournament officials before the end of day and all measurements will be final.

25. No live wells are required to compete in the tournament. Any existing live wells on boats must not have water in them at any time during the tournament. No fish are to be placed in the live well it is not permissible to hold fish in water using nets, lines, stringers, etc. Delays in releasing fish may be grounds for disqualification.

26. A boat must not come in contact with any other boat except the officials on the water. Being sports minded anglers, please give other boats appropriate courtesy/consideration while fishing and/or while under throttle.

27. "Spirit of the Rule"/protest. All rules have "loopholes". It is the intention of SAWT to provide an honest sportsman like tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that "Spirit of the Rule" will prevail and all judgements by the officials are final. All questions or problems concerning the rules are to be referred to the tournament officials. Any contestant has a right to make a protest against another contestant(s). A protest form is available from the tournament director and must be filled out and submitted to the director within (1) hour of the close of the fishing day. A one hundred (\$100.00) dollar protest fee will be required to accompany any formal protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is found to be valid by the protest committee appointed by the director. If the protest is found to be invalid, the fee will not be returned.

28. No fishing over 30 feet allowed at any time, NO EXCEPTIONS. Teams found exceeding this depth may be disqualified from the tournament.

29. In the event of a tie with the winner on any competition will be decided by the greatest weight taken on the final day. (Including Big Fish.)

30. As part of our ongoing cooperation with Alberta Environment and Parks, Fisheries Management, we are requiring that all teams provide additional information to track the numbers of hours angled during pre-fishing as well as the number of fish caught during pre-fish and throughout the tournament. Measured fish during tournament times are the only exemption as they will be tracked through submission of pictures. Tracking is to be recorded beginning on the Thursday prior to each tournament and will end the following Saturday at 3:00 p.m. All sheets are to be returned at the end of each day along with SD cards. If paperwork is not received SD cards will not qualify for measurements until paperwork has been completed.

31. All boats coming into Alberta require inspection to prevent the movement of aquatic invasive species. If you live outside of Alberta and are planning to attend any SAWT tournament you must provide proof of passing an inspection (proof of inspection sheet) at time of registration.

32. Angler/Team of The Year is based on the Angler or the team with the most points after all the Tournaments are complete. You do not need to fish with the same partner for all of the tournaments.

THE TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION/COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY ANY TEAM FOR RULE INFRACTIONS IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS SUCH ACTION. SAWT MEMBERSHIPS MAY ALSO BE REVOKED DUE TO RULE INFRACTIONS AND/ OR "UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOUR" DURING TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS. THE SAWT ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DECLINE ANY ANGLER FROM ENTERING A TOURNAMENT WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISQUALIFIED AT ANY OTHER FISHING TOURNAMENT/EVENT.

***Promoters and organizations hosting/assisting in the tournament operations, their agencies, and agents are not responsible for the death, damage, injury, liability, theft, fire, flood or any loss to any entrants or families and friends.***

