

2024 SAWT RULES AND REGULATIONS

*Changes to #4 and #10

1. FAIR PLAY

Anyone caught breaking the rules of the SAWT tournaments will be disqualified from all SAWT Tournaments.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Anyone can participate in the SAWT Events. All persons 16 years or older are eligible to enter. Entrants 16 years and under must be accompanied by parent or guardian. SAWT is a 2-person team event consisting of one captain and one partner.

3. FEES

- You must be an active registered member of the SAWT association and in good standing in order to participate in the tournaments.
- Membership and registration fees must be paid by EMT to SAWTfishing@gmail.com If you wish to pay by another format, you must get approval from the SAWT treasurer by emailing SAWTfishing@gmail.com or calling 403-554-4537.
- Entry fee will only be returned if notice is given seven (7) days prior to the start of the tournament.
- Registration and bag pick up will be held on the day before the posted tournament day from 4:00pm - 5:00pm. All waiver forms and registration forms must be completed by the captain and the partner and the team member operating the boat must provide verification of their boating license where required by law.

4. WAIVER

Promoters and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies and agents are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire, or any loss to any entrants. Each entrant, upon signing an entry form, will in effect be signing a waiver. Waiver will also be required to acknowledge SD card, rules and regulations have been read and understood prior to tournament entry.

5. REQUIREMENTS AND SAFETY

- Each contestant will be in possession of a valid Alberta fishing license.
- Each entrant will be required to have a U.S. Coast Guard or Canadian approved personal flotation device and is you will be urged to always wear it when in the boat. It is mandatory that personal flotation devices be worn during the motoring up during flight releases and when returning to the launch at the end of each day. Personal Flotation Devices must be worn while your main motor is under power.

- All contestants are required to observe Canadian rules and regulations concerning safe boating.
- All boats will be required to meet U.S. Coast Guard or Canadian safety regulations.
- All boats must carry a state or provincial registration in accordance with the regulations of the boat owner's home state or province.
- Boats may be equipped with electric trolling motors.
- Electronic and electrical depth finders, sonars, and live scopes are permitted.
- In the case of high winds, tournament play will be delayed or cancelled at any wind speed of 40 km/hr. or higher. If tournament play has started and wind speed accelerates to 40 km/hr. or higher while boats are on the water, it is highly recommended that you exit the water as soon as safely possible.

6. PROTESTS

- Any contestant has the right to make a protest against another contestant. A protest email must be sent via email to the SAWT president within 1 hour of the close of the tournament day. The email to send the protest to is SAWTfishing@gmail.com
- Email must include the protesters full name, cell number and boat number, the boat number in which the protest is being launched against, a general description of the area of the lake in which the boat in question was at the time of the incident, and the incident witnessed.
- A \$100.00 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.
- Any contestant involved with the protest must be on call for three hours following the end of the fishing day.
- The decision of the SAWT president is final.

7. FISHING HOURS AND STARTING

- Fishing times will be dependent on the number of boats registered and will be discussed at the rules meeting. It can be anticipated that the fishing day will start between 6:00 a.m. and will end at 3:00 p.m. for the fishing dates posted, unless time changes are discussed at the rules meeting.
- All boats must be inspected by the SAWT executive and/or the Marshall boat before they leave in their respective flights. 8 hours of fishing time is allowed for each flight. Contestants who return late will be penalized 20% of their total weight for each minute late and will be disqualified from any large walleye prize.
- Boats will be leaving in two flights. The flights will alternate each day.

- Multi-lake tournaments require that each boat designate which lake they wish to fish on at the time of registration on your registration form. You must fish in that lake for both days of the tournament.

8. BOAT IDENTIFICATION AND SECURITY

- One member of each boat entry must attend the rules meeting on the day before the tournament start date at the specified location for each tournament.
- Random boat numbers will be distributed at the registration/rules meetings and boat stickers must be placed on the port (passenger) side windshield of the boat. All boats are required to display the decal with the number for the purpose of identifying you/it as a tournament angler/boat for easy identification by tournament officials.
- Each boat is required to pass a boat inspection each day of the tournament prior to start times.
- Boat inspections will begin before all boats enter the water each morning of tournament days. It is your responsibility to be on time and allow for traffic line-ups and waiting times. Boat inspection times will be discussed at the rules meeting and will be dependent on the number of entries for each tournament.
- Each boat is required to possess personal flotation devices (PFD) for each person(s) on board.
- Each boat will be required to meet Canada Coast Guard Requirements including having a bailing bucket, sounding device, and oars.
- Each boat is required to have SMRID & EID stickers and they must be up to date, or you will not be able to fish.
- During boat inspection, a colored tie will be tied to your boat and must be visible during the entire tournament day.

9. FISHING

- Each angler will be allowed to have only one in line the water at all times. Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat; however, spare rods and equipment MAY NOT be laying over any part of the boat at any time. More than two lines in the water for any reason will result in disqualification.
- Bait must be in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife regulations for the body of water in which the tournament is held.
- An angler must not leave the boat to land a fish or untangle equipment for any reason through the tournament fishing day.
- The SAWT is hosting catch and release picture tournaments.

- This event is catch and release only. Eligible species include Walleye & Sauger only. All other species of fish caught during a SAWT event must also be released. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND BARBLESS HOOKS DURING TOURNAMENT DAYS.**
- All measuring boards will be provided by SAWT, and one will be given to each team during boat inspection each day of the event.
- For each catch to qualify, a photograph of the fish on a SAWT measuring board must be taken using a digital camera with a removable SD card. Photos cannot be uploaded from a photo gallery or other sources including cell phones.
- This is a total length measurement tournament. NOT fork length. The total length of a fish is measured from the tip of the nose or jaw to the tip of the tail with the tail pinched.
- The nose of the fish must be at the start or zero mark on a SAWT issued measuring board and the total length is taken where the longest length of the tail crosses the measurements on the measuring board.
- All Fish must be measured with the right side down (the right side of the fish must be facing down or touching the board) and the left side of the fish facing upwards.
- When you measure your fish entry, the measurement rules are as follows. The nose of the fish must be visibly touching the bump end of the board, the fish must be placed on top of the board and the entire fish showing the head and tail and past the tail must be visible in the measurement photo. All fish are to be measured in millimeters (mm)
- The photo must be taken from a birds-eye view looking down on the fish.
- A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, on the ruler **WILL NOT BE SCORED.**
- All fish must be at least 50 cm long. The mouth is allowed to be open, closed, or anywhere in between, so long as the fish meets the other above requirements.
- There are to be no fingers placed in the gills or mouth of the fish. Any fingers in the gills or mouth of the fish will disqualify that fish. 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.
- After the photo entry is taken and completed, you must immediately release the fish.
- For the SAWT events, you may submit 5 fish photos.
- No live wells are to be used in the tournament. Any existing live wells on boats must not have water in them at any time during the tournament. Only 1 fish may be in the boat at any time for processing. A second may be held in a net outside of the boat and must be processed immediately after the first one.
- 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. Tracking is to begin on the pre-fish day prior to each tournament and will be completed each day of tournament. All sheets are to be returned at the end of each day with your SD card at the dock when exiting the lake. If paperwork is not received the team's entries will not qualify.

10. PRE-FISHING, FISHING HOURS AND STARTING TIMES

- Pre-fishing is permitted **THREE DAYS ONLY** prior to the start of the posted tournament start date. Pre-fish day one and day two have no fishing hour limits. The last pre-fish day hours will be 6:00 am – 2:00 pm sharp. During pre-fishing, no fish can be harvested as this is still a catch and release time period for participating boats. Pre-fishing dates and times will be posted on the website. If you intend on fishing the tournament, registered or not at that time, pre-fishing is only permitted as stated in these rules.
- **FISHING TIMES:** Flight times will be determined by the number of boat entries for each tournament. Start and finish time will be discussed at the rule's meetings.
- Flights will be reversed on the second tournament day.
- Upon the 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 shoreline to allow boat traffic to safely pass. Upon finishing, each boat will be required to **THROTTLE DOWN PRIOR TO** again passing through the two (2) buoys in a **NO WAKE ZONE** and **CHECK IN** with tournament officials. **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!**
- Teams returning late to the finish line will lose 20% of their weight every minute they are late. After five (5) minutes, the day's total weight will be **DISQUALIFIED**. All measuring boards and fishing forms in their bag (provided by the SAWT) are to be returned at the end of each day.
- At the discretion of the SAWT executive, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- Fishing is prohibited by any method within 23 meters downstream of the lower entrance of any fishway, canal, obstacle or leap. Weirs and dams are considered obstacles.

11. AWARDS & PRIZES

- Proceeds from the tournament will be distributed as prizes in accordance with the prize set out by the SAWT. The SAWT will be awarding all prizes for the event.
- Prize amounts are based on a full field of 160 anglers (80 teams). If the tournament doesn't fill, the payout percentages for each paid position will remain the same and will be adjusted accordingly.
- Awards will be announced by the executive of the SAWT.

- In the event of a tie for Biggest Fish, the tie break will be decided by a re-evaluation of the biggest fish pictures, by the SAWT executive. Their decision is final.
- Team of The Year is based on the Angler or the team with the most points after all the tournaments are complete. Each team must fish 2 tournaments together. If you or your partner are unable to fish a tournament, one team member may fish with another partner. The points from that tournament will be awarded to your team points. Under no circumstances may both team members fish with different partners during the same tournament and take the higher points for their team total. In the event that an angler is unable to fish with the same partner for all 3 tournaments, they may qualify for the shootout after the following requirements have been met:
 - The angler must speak to the SAWT executive prior to the first tournament about fishing with different partners for approval.
 - If the angler qualifies for the shootout tournament, they must fish the shootout tournament with one of the partners they qualified with in the previous 3 tournaments.
 - If the 3 anglers from the previous 3 tournaments are unavailable to fish the shootout tournament, the qualifying angler may choose a partner from the SAWT registered membership list. They must be a current registered member.
- Tournament organizers reserve the right to adjust the number of entries.
- The SAWT executive may implement a polygraph policy for any tournament where they see it necessary. If it is determined that dishonest practices have occurred during a tournament, the SAWT executive has final authority over the decision of the disqualifications and alternate winners.

12. OTHER RULES

- By registering and participating in the tournament, all participants agree to abide by the rules and regulations they have received as set out by the SAWT.
- This tournament is catch and release ONLY. Please handle all fish caught with care. The harvesting of any fish will result in disqualification. The goal is to achieve a 0% mortality rate.
- All anglers are strongly urged to only use barbless hooks or have barbs pinched.
- At least one part of your boat has to be under 25 feet at all times, NO EXCEPTIONS. Teams found exceeding this depth may be disqualified from the tournament.
- 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. SMRID & EID stickers must be up to date, or you will not be able to fish.
- Anglers can only submit catches that their team of 2 anglers have caught themselves. Only two people are allowed in the boat during tournament hours except as expressly waived by the SAWT executives and members.

- All fish entered for this event must be caught via angling i.e., using hook, line, rod and reel. At no time will fish caught by non-angling (i.e., use of traps, trap nets or cages) be allowed to be entered. Usage of a landing net to land a hooked fish is allowed.
- Marshall can ask for a picture of your live well(s) at any time during the tournament.
- Each contestant must have in their possession a valid fishing license for their respective jurisdiction or be exempt under the regulations of their jurisdiction.
- Each contestant must conform to the fishing rules and regulations that are in place for the jurisdiction in which they are fishing.
- Promoters and organizers (including their agencies or agents) hosting/assisting in the tournament operation are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire flood or any loss to any participants, families or friends. 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 effect for the entire tournament season in which you are competing.
- Any angler found to be cheating will be disqualified from the tournament. SAWT also reserves the right to ban anglers from competing in future events.
- Any boat found in possession of alcohol or drugs will be DISQUALIFIED from the tournament.
- In the event of disqualification, any paid entry fees will be forfeited and not refunded.
- A boat may not come into contact with any other boats except the officials on the water. Being sports minded anglers, please give other boats appropriate courtesy/consideration while fishing and/or while under throttle.
- All questions or concerns relating to the rules of this tournament are to be referred to the President of the SAWT and the SAWT executive. Their decision will be final in all cases. No other person can be considered a spokesman for the rules during the tournament. The contact email for this event is SAWTfishing@gmail.com
- All rules have loopholes. It is our intention to provide an honest sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded the spirit of the rule will prevail in all judgments. (q) To ensure the best chances of survival for the fish, all participants are to handle fish safely. Blatant abuse to fish or the resource is reason for disqualification
- All participants must follow boating safety regulations in your jurisdiction.
- All COVID-19 Public Health orders and Gathering Restrictions at the time of the event must be followed by all participants

13. SCHEDULE A

Specific Rules as set out by Alberta Environment & Parks AEP & CFE license:

To be posted for each event at tournament headquarters

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 BEHAVIOR" 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. THE SAWT EXECUTIVE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OR MODIFY THE RULES AT ANYTIME.