

2023 Revision summary:

- 38. Added 1 point rule for boat drivers in draw tournament.
- 41. removed sauger
- 42c. added AOY Runner-up
- 42c. added Trophies and jacket credit
- NTC Qualifying paragraph, reworded to make more clear
- 44. NTC entry selection process, added a timeline
- 47. Federation membership. Added selection process.

2022 Revision summary:

- 1. Changed age to 18
- 4. Removed “avoid penalty”
- 5. Changed age to 18, removed “legal guardian”
- 14. Added last line about only applicable for weights
- 26. Added word “closed mouth”
- 39. Removed award for 3rd place
- 40. Removed award for second largest walleye
- 4. changed within sight to within 400 yards
- 35. Scoring fish must be circled and totaled – 1 lb penalty
- 9. Starter boat must be cleared before acceleration to plane – 1 lb penalty
- 25. Penalty is 1 lb per dead fish.
- 10. Allow locking at Board discretion for the Solo

MISSISSIPPI WALLEYE CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES

Tournament Entry

1. All tournament anglers must be members of the Mississippi Walleye Club in good standing and at least 18 years of age to participate. With the permission of a parent or legal guardian. An angler under the age of 18 is eligible to fish in PICK tournaments only. Each angler must pay a \$20.00 entry fee prior to the start of each tournament. All entry fees are nonrefundable.
2. To be eligible to fish in a tournament, members must be signed up for the tournament by the director prior to the drawing of partners for DRAW tournaments or prior to the drawing of boat order for PICK tournaments. For PICK tournaments, prior to the selection of boat order, members may submit to the DRAW process to be matched with another club member to fish that event. Members may sign up for tournaments at the last regular club meeting before the tournament or may contact the tournament director via phone before the drawing occurs at the meeting. No members will be allowed to fish the tournament for any reason after the drawing has been completed. PICK Tournament teams may sign up the morning of the tournament. Any exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the executive board.
3. The Board will determine the ramp site and boundary waters for each tournament. Fishable waters extend from DAM to DAM and railroad TRACK to TRACK within a given river pool or within the boundary of a LAKE.
4. The tournament director and board members will determine the fishing hours (start time, return time) at the last regular club meeting before the tournament and will have the final say regarding fishing hours. All boats must be within 400 yards of the designated ramp site at the return time to avoid disqualification. Late is Late, you will be disqualified.
5. Two anglers will fish per boat as a team. The board will determine the method of partner selection for each tournament. Anglers may only fish with the same person in a PICK tournament once per year. Anglers under the age of 18 may fish in all PICK tournaments with their parent or guardian as their partner. If a decision on boat operation becomes a conflict, the angler that has the most fishermen of the year points will have their choice. A coin toss will be used if the anglers are tied for points for the year. You may only use 2 rods per angler.
6. If an angler does not show up for a draw tournament, their partner may fish alone, or they may receive a credit to a future tournament. If the angler does not have a boat, they can find one, but must return to the designated ramp site for weigh-in. The angler may also choose to fish with another angler in the tournament if the other angler is also fishing alone and they both agree to fish together.

7. If a team is late to the start of the tournament or chooses to start late in a tournament, the team must launch their boat from the tournament ramp site. Before the late team can start fishing, their boat must be inspected by another tournament boat.
8. A member of the board will check all live wells, coolers, and other areas of the boat they deem necessary at the ramp site prior to the start of the tournament. Any tournament boat that has weighable fish in it prior to the start of the tournament will be disqualified from all tournaments for the remainder of the year.
9. The boat starting order will be determined by a draw at the last regular club meeting prior to the tournament. The official start boat is usually the last boat number in the order. While traveling at idle speed, all boats must clear the starter boat's bow or stern (depending on the direction the launching boat is traveling) in order before accelerating on plane. Failure to do so will result in a weight penalty of 1 lbs.
10. The tournament director and board members may opt to host the Classic Solo Tournament for the final event. Points will be awarded based on the standard point system, outlined below, determined by number of boat entries. Starting order will be determined by TOTAL points in the current Angler of the Year (AOY) standings. AOY tie breaking rules apply if necessary. The tournament director and board may opt to allow locking for this event.
11. The tournament director and board members have the final word on delaying the start time or cancellation of the tournament due to weather or any other unsafe boating conditions such as lack of sunlight or fog.

Tournament Procedures

12. Any protest against another team or team member must be filed verbally within 30 minutes after the last fish has been weighed. A written protest, signed by both team members, must be sent, or handed to the club president within one week of the tournament date. The board will not act upon the protest unless the above criteria are met. All persons involved will be notified when the board will meet to decide on the protest. All persons involved will be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting. The board will make a final decision on the protest in a closed session.
13. Any tournament fish in a team's boat or possession that is not legal will result in the loss of that fish plus a one-pound deduction. Any team that that possesses two or more illegal fish will be disqualified from that tournament.
14. According to 1994 state law, all tournament boats will have a live well that pumps in outside water. An aerated live well must have the capacity to pump fresh water into the live well and should be operated continuously during the tournament. This is only applicable to weigh tournaments.

15. Anglers should use common courtesy when fishing. An example would be to pull in behind another boat fishing a wing dam. The first boat at the wing dam shall determine how the dam will be fished and has right-of-way for the wing dam. No anchoring on a spot is allowed unless the boat anchoring is the right-of-way boat or unless all other anglers on the wing dam agree to allow the boat to anchor.
16. Each angler will conduct themselves in a sportsman like manner by obeying all conservation laws, state and federal boating safety laws and extending courtesy to all individuals using tournament waters. All tournaments will comply with Iowa fishing rules and regulations. All anglers must wear life jackets at the start of the tournament. No alcohol may be consumed during tournament hours. Person or persons found guilty of violating any of these laws will be disqualified from that tournament and could be expelled from all future tournaments.
17. It is complementary for the two anglers (boater, non-boater) to share or split the expenses associated with participating in the tournament including fishing prior to the tournament and the day of the tournament. Typical expenses include bait, boat gas, vehicle gas, engine oil and lodging (if required).
18. If a team wants to pull out of a tournament early, the team must contact the tournament director, Mr. Lance Kirby (563-580-0154), or club president, Mr. BJ Eiben (563-542-6864) or another tournament boat either verbally or by a note before leaving. One of the anglers from the team must be at the weigh-in to qualify for the tournament. If this is not followed, both parties may be disqualified for the next tournament.
19. All fishing must be done from a tournament registered boat with the fish being brought to the boat, by hook and line method, hooked forward of the gill plate.
20. Willow cats may not be used in tournaments. Any team in possession of dead or alive willow cats will be disqualified. Artificial willow cats are allowed.
21. No electronic communication between two anglers, teams or any other fisherman is allowed during the tournament.
22. Any point not covered will be considered and decided upon by the board. All rules have loopholes. In the interest of good sportsmanship, anglers are reminded that the spirit of the rule will prevail in all cases requiring judgment or interpretation of a rule.

Weigh Tournament Procedures

23. The tournament director, (or designated representative) will conduct the weigh-in. No tournament fish may be kept by an angler unless it is a trophy fish. Anglers are encouraged to release all fish alive.

24. All fish will be measured, weighed, and identified one team at a time at the weigh in immediately after the boats have been removed from the water. All fish will be measured with the mouth closed and be measured to be maximum length. The official tournament ruler is the Lake Borne Tackle “The Judge Tournament Ruler”. Fish will only be measured on the official tournament ruler provided by the board. No exceptions. Legal weighable tournament fish are: Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye. Walleyes, Saugers and Saugeyes must be a minimum of 15 inches in length. Saugeyes will be considered a Walleye and will follow Walleye rules, regulations, and awards.
25. A maximum of twelve (12) legal Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye are allowed in a boat’s live well during the tournament. No culling of fish is allowed during the tournament. Only five fish may be brought to the scale to be weighed. Extra fish must be released before the boat is removed from the water. No dead fish may be released or culled. All dead fish must be brought to the weigh-in. The team will be penalized a pound for each dead fish at weigh-in.

Catch, Record, Release (CRR) Tournament Procedures

26. One partner holds the fish on the official The Judge Ruler. The belly of the fish will face the person measuring the fish. The closed mouth of the fish **MUST** touch the bump plate on the ruler to the **LEFT** (Head to Left), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length on the **RIGHT** end of the ruler (Tail to the Right).
27. The partners agree on the length of the fish to 1/4th inch accuracy. If the tail fin touches or crosses a graduation line on the ruler, the official length of the fish for scoring purposes may be lengthened to the next one quarter (1/4th) of an inch line on the ruler.
28. 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 show clearly. The photograph must be taken of the **LEFT** side of the fish **ONLY** (belly towards the angler holding the fish, head to the left) with its mouth closed. A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, and the left side of the fish on the ruler **WILL NOT BE SCORED**. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed.
29. Another photo **MUST** be taken of the fish being held up by a partner. This “hero shot” photo **MUST** show the entire **RIGHT** side of the fish. These photos will be used for technical evaluation and may be used on stage during the awards ceremony or posted to Mississippi Walleye Club media outlets (web, Facebook, etc.)
30. The fish must then be immediately released back into the water by the partner holding the fish.
31. Record the length of the fish on the Official Scorecard and both partners should validate the length recorded for accuracy.

32. In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the CRR process requires that one fish must be measured, photographed, and released as quickly as possible before the next fish can be processed.
33. NO fish are to be retained 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.
34. To speed up the CRR process, while a fish is in the boat, anglers will NOT be allowed to reset or place any fishing lines in the water. After all fish are processed and released, normal angling may resume.
35. When the team returns to the launch site they are circle the scoring fish, convert the scored length to weight using the provided chart. total the amount and turn in the Official Score Card and the SD memory card. Failure to follow this will result in a 1-pound penalty.
36. The Tournament Weigh Master will review the recorded entries for a valid submission. The top teams and big fish will be reviewed via the SD cards before the results are certified by the Weigh Master.
37. Any discrepancies discovered upon correlation of submitted score cards will be reviewed by a quorum of the Mississippi Walleye Club Board and appropriate action will be taken which may be as severe as suspension of the anglers involved of future tournaments.

Tournament Awards and Points System

38. Any member that signs up for a draw tournament as a boat driver will be awarded 1 point to be tallied toward the Angler of the Year total. Any member with 3 points in that given year will be awarded \$60 in "club dollars" that can be applied to any club activity requiring an exchange of money (tournament entry, club dues, dinner guests, raffle tickets). The Club Store is excluded from "club dollars".
39. Winning a tournament will be determined by total weight. Second place will be determined by the second highest total weight. The team with the largest fish will break any ties. If there is still a tie, the points will be shared by both teams.
40. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place.
41. To maintain season long interest, a trophy will be awarded for the largest Walleye caught during the tournament season.
42. Points will be awarded according to the following system.

15 Points – 1st Place
14 Points – 2nd Place
13 Points – 3rd Place
12 Points – 4th Place
11 Points – 5th Place
10 Points – 6th Place

9 Points – 7th Place
8 Points – 8th Place
7 Points – 9th Place
6 Points – 10th Place
5 Points – 11th Place
4 Points – 12th Place

3 Points – 13th Place
2 Points – 14th Place
1 Point – 15th Place
1 Point – All
participants

- a. One point will be given to both team members for the biggest fish of the day. If there is a tie for biggest fish of the day, each angler on each team will receive one point.
- b. Each angler will receive one point for fishing the tournament.
- c. Angler of the year and Runner-up will be determined by using the highest four tournament point totals for the year. Trophies will be issued for Angler of the Year and Runner-Up. In addition, the AOY can purchase a commemorative jacket to be embroidered and be reimbursed for up to \$200.
- d. New members who have not fished more than one club tournament in prior years and who is 18 year of age or older is eligible for Rookie of the Year award. An angler is eligible after they turn 18 even if they have fished a club tournament before.
- e. If there is a tie for rookie of the year, the total weight of fish caught for the year will determine the winner.
- f. If there is a tie for fisherman of the year or any other year-end placing, the tie will be broken by using the greater number of 1st place finishes. If there is still a tie, the greater number of 2nd place finishes will be used. If there is still a tie, the greater number of 3rd place finishes will be used and so on until the tie is broken. Only the angler's four highest tournament scores will be used to break the tie.

If the greater number of finishes still results in a tie, the greater total weight will be used. Only weights from the four highest tournaments scores will be used. Weights from tournaments not included in the four highest tournament scores will not be used. If the angler's fourth, fifth or sixth highest tournament scores are equal; the tournament score with the greater weight will be used for the fourth highest score.

For anglers who participated in less than four tournaments, ties will be broken using the greater number of tournaments fished.

- g. All points will be final after the next club meeting following the tournament.

Cabela's NTC Qualifying

Each year The Walleye Federation (TWF) granted each of its member clubs entries into the Cabela's National Team Championship (NTC). This is announced typically in January for the coming year. The following year's tournament date and location is announced late summer following the current year's event.

43. To fish the Cabelas Team Championship as someone's partner, a person must be a member in good standing by June 30th of the qualifying year. Membership waiver and dues must be received by the treasurer by June 30th at 12:00pm. If no club members want to go to the NTC as a partner, club member can pick a non-club partner.

44. Once the Club is notified of the number of slots it has been awarded, an announcement will be made to all club members in good standing as of Rule 43. Any member that wishes to submit a team of two club members must do so within 7 days of the announcement. The NTC entries will be offered to in order of the standings for Angler of the Year. If entries are still available, a second announcement will be made requesting and Club member / non-club member team requests within 7 more days. The NTC entries will be offered in the order of the standing for Angler of the Year. After the second round of selection, if there are any NTC entries left, any club member in accordance of rule 42 may request the NTC entry on a first come first served basis.
45. The following monetary awards will be reimbursed by the Mississippi Walleye Club to be used towards the Cabelas NTC tournament entry fee of club members only. The award is based on the highest AOY ranking,
 - a. Highest AOY angler - \$150
 - b. Highest AOY angler's co-angler - \$150
 - c. Second highest AOY angler - \$100
46. Teams are responsible for all other expenses.
47. Federation Membership. The Club maintains the minimum of 12 memberships in the Walleye Federation to qualify for insurance. You must be a Federation member to qualify for the many national and regional tournaments. If you would like to be considered for one of the Club's 12 paid memberships, please indicate so on you annual signup sheet. If you never plan to fish such an event, please do not take this option. The Club must include the President and the Secretary in its membership so the next 10 requests will be based on the Angler of the Year standings.

