

2025 Revision summary:

The entire document was reworked using Google's Gemini AI

2. Added paragraph to define the DRAW process

26-36 rewritten to support photos with phones

The NTC Qualifying paragraph added a reminder of the dual-year requirement to fish the NTC

47. Updated to reflect current Federation membership requirements

MISSISSIPPI WALLEYE CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES

Tournament Entry

1. All tournament anglers must be members of the Mississippi Walleye Club in good standing and must be at least 18 years old to participate. Anglers under the age of 18 can compete only with the permission of a parent or legal guardian and are eligible to fish only in PICK tournaments. Each angler is required to pay a \$20.00 entry fee before the start of each tournament. Please note that all entry fees are non-refundable.
2. To be eligible to participate in a tournament, members must be registered by the Tournament Director before the drawing of partners for DRAW tournaments or before the drawing of boat orders for PICK tournaments. In PICK tournaments, members have the option to enter the DRAW process to be paired with another club member before the selection of the boat order.

Members can register for tournaments during the last regular club meeting before the event or by contacting the Tournament Director or a Board Officer by phone before the drawing occurs at the meeting. Once the drawing is completed, no members will be allowed to participate in the tournament under any circumstances.

Teams can register on the morning of the PICK tournament up to 30 minutes before the start. Entries received after the draw will be added to the boat start order as they are received.

The DRAW process will enter all boaters in one hat, and all non-boaters in a second hat. Boaters will be drawn to be teams until there is one less or equal boater to non-boaters. Then the DRAW will proceed by taking on a boater and matching them with a non-boater

3. The Board will designate the ramp site and boundary waters for each tournament. Fishable waters extend from DAM to DAM and from railroad TRACK to TRACK within a specific river pool or the boundary of a LAKE.
4. The fishing hours (start time and return time) for the tournament will be determined by the tournament director and board members during the last regular club meeting before the event. They will have the final authority of these times. To avoid disqualification, all boats must be within 400 yards of the designated ramp site by the specified return time. Arriving late will result in disqualification.
5. Two anglers will fish together as a team in each boat. The tournament board will determine how partners are selected for each event. Anglers may only fish with the same partner in a PICK tournament once each year. Anglers under the age of 18 who meet the

family membership criteria are permitted to participate in all PICK tournaments if their parent or guardian is their partner.

In case of a conflict regarding boat operation, the angler with the most points in the Fisherman of the Year standings will have the final choice. If both anglers are tied in points, a coin toss will be used to determine who gets to choose.

6. If an angler fails to attend a draw tournament, their partner has two options: they can either fish alone or receive credit for a future tournament. If the angler does not have access to a boat, they are allowed to find one but must return to the designated ramp site for weigh-in. Additionally, an angler fishing alone may choose to partner with another angler in the tournament, provided both parties agree to team up.
7. If a team arrives late to the tournament or decides to start late, they are required to launch their boat from the designated tournament ramp. Before they can begin fishing, their boat must be inspected by another tournament boat.
8. A board member will inspect all live wells, coolers, and any other areas of the boat deemed necessary at the ramp site before the tournament begins. Any tournament boat found to have scoreable fish on board prior to the start of the tournament will be disqualified from all tournaments for the remainder of the year.
9. The order in which boats will start will be determined by a draw conducted at the last regular club meeting before the tournament. The official starting boat is typically the last number in the starting order.
10. The tournament director and board members may choose to host the Classic Solo Tournament as the final event of the season. Points will be awarded based on the standard point system detailed below, which is determined by the number of boat entries. The starting order will be determined by the total points in the current Angler of the Year (AOY) standings. In the event of a tie, the AOY tie-breaking rules will be applied. Additionally, the tournament director and board may decide to allow locking for this event.
11. The tournament director and board members have the authority to delay the start time or cancel the tournament due to weather or any other unsafe boating conditions, including insufficient sunlight or fog.

Tournament Procedures

12. Protests against another team or team member must be made verbally within 30 minutes after the final fish has been weighed. A written protest, signed by both team members, must be submitted to the club president either in person or via mail within one week of the tournament date. The board will not consider the protest unless these criteria are met. All parties involved will be notified of the meeting when the board will address the

protest. All people involved will be allowed to speak at the meeting. The board will make a final decision on the protest in a closed session.

13. Any tournament fish found in a team's boat or possession that is not legal will result in the loss of that fish, along with a one-pound deduction from their total weight. Additionally, any team found in possession of two or more illegal fish will be disqualified from the tournament.
14. According to state law from 1994, all tournament boats must be equipped with a live well that pumps in water from the outside. An aerated live well must be capable of continuously pumping fresh water into it throughout the duration of the tournament. This requirement applies only to weigh tournaments.
15. Anglers should practice common courtesy while fishing. For example, when approaching a wing dam, a boat should stop at a reasonable distance behind another boat that is already fishing there. The first boat at the wing dam has the right to determine how the area will be fished and thus has the right-of-way. No boat should anchor in a spot unless it is the right-of-way boat or if all other anglers at the wing dam agree to allow that boat to anchor.
16. Each angler is expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner by adhering to all conservation laws, as well as state and federal boating safety regulations. Courtesy must be extended to all individuals using the tournament waters. All tournaments will comply with Iowa fishing rules and regulations.
17. Consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited during tournament hours. Violating this rule by an individual disqualifies the boat from the tournament and the individual may be expelled from all future tournaments.
18. It is beneficial for both anglers (the boater and the non-boater) to share or divide the expenses related to participating in the tournament. This includes costs incurred both before and on the tournament day. Common expenses consist of bait, boat fuel, vehicle fuel, engine oil, and lodging (if necessary).
19. If a team wishes to withdraw from a tournament early, they must contact the tournament director, Mr. Lance Kirby (563-580-0154), or the club president, Mr. BJ Eiben (563-542-6864), or another tournament official, either verbally or in writing, before leaving. At least one member of the team must be present at the weigh-in to qualify for the tournament. Failure to follow this procedure may result in disqualification for both parties in the next tournament.
20. The tournament will begin with the designated starter boat. All members on the launching boat must wear their life jackets properly. While traveling at idle speed, all boats must pass either the bow or stern of the starter boat (depending on the direction the launching

boat is heading) before accelerating to plane and displaying their boat number placard. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a weight penalty of 1 pound.

21. All fishing must be conducted from a tournament-registered boat. Fish must be caught using the hook-and-line method and hooked in front of the gill plate. Each angler is allowed to use a maximum of two fishing rods.
22. Willow cats cannot be used in tournaments. Any team found with dead or alive willow cats will be disqualified. Artificial willow cats are permitted.
23. No electronic communication is permitted between anglers or teams during the tournament.
24. Any points not addressed will be considered and decided by the board. All rules have loopholes, so in the interest of good sportsmanship, anglers are reminded that the spirit of the rule will prevail in all cases that require judgment or interpretation.

Weigh Tournament Procedures

25. The weigh-in will be conducted by the tournament director or a designated representative. Anglers may only keep a trophy fish and are strongly encouraged to release all other fish alive.
26. All fish will be measured, weighed, and identified one team at a time during the weigh-in, which will take place immediately after the boats have been removed from the water. Fish will be measured with their mouths closed, and the measurement will be taken to determine the maximum length. The official tournament ruler is the Lake Borne Tackle "The Judge Tournament Ruler." Fish can only be measured using this official ruler provided by the tournament board; no exceptions will be allowed.

The legal tournament fish are Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye. All these fish must be a minimum of 15 inches in length to be considered scorable. Saugeyes will be classified as Walleye and will follow the same rules, regulations, and awards as Walleye.

No action is permitted on a fish to alter its natural length or weight. Any fish that is found to be altered will result in disqualification of the team from the event and may lead to expulsion from future events.

27. A maximum of twelve (12) legal Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye are permitted in a boat's live well during the tournament. Culling of fish is not allowed at any time. Each team may bring only five fish to the scale for weighing. Any extra fish must be released before the boat is taken out of the water. Dead fish cannot be released or culled; all dead fish

must be brought to the weigh-in. For each dead fish presented at the weigh-in, the team will incur a penalty of one pound.

Catch, Record, Release (CRR) Tournament Procedures

28. To accurately measure your catch, you will need a Judge Ruler. Ensure that the boat number placard provided at the beginning of the tournament is visible in your scoring photo. This placard is designed to fit over the end of the Judge Ruler. Please remember to bring your own camera. It is your responsibility to submit the scoring photos, so be sure to know how to transfer them to the Weigh Master. Texting your photos is preferred.

All photos of scoring fish must be submitted to the Weigh Master at the end of the tournament by an appropriate method for record-keeping. The preferred method is to take the photos with a cell phone and text them to the Weigh Master at the end of the event.

29. To measure the fish, position it so that its belly faces the person measuring it. The fish's closed mouth must touch the bump plate on the ruler (with the head facing left), while the tail should be extended to its maximum length on the right end of the ruler (tail facing right).

Partners should agree on the fish's length to within 1/4-inch accuracy. The official length of the fish is determined by the highest point that the tail touches. For scoring purposes, the length recorded on the score sheet will be rounded to the next 1/4-inch increment.

For example, if a fish measures 17 3/8 inches, the largest 1/4-inch increment that the tail touches is 17 1/4 inches. Therefore, the fish would be scored as a 17 1/2-inch fish.

30. When taking a photo of a fish alongside a ruler, it is essential to capture a clear "scoring" photo that shows the fish's total length. Ensure that both the head and tail of the fish are visible in the image and that the assigned boat placard is also clearly visible.

The photograph must be taken from the left side of the fish, with its belly facing the angler and its head oriented to the left. Additionally, the fish's mouth should be closed in the photo.

A photo that does not distinctly show the entire length of the fish—including the head and tail, and is captured from the left side on the ruler—will not be scored. You may make multiple attempts to get a valid scoring photo.

31. 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.)

32. The fish must then be immediately released back into the water by the partner holding the fish.
33. Record the length of the fish on the Official Scorecard and both partners should validate the length recorded for accuracy.
34. 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.
35. 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.
36. 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.
37. Upon returning to the launch site, the team needs to circle the scored fish and convert the measured length into weight using the provided chart. After calculating the total weight, they must sign and submit the Official Score Card, along with all photos (both scoring and hero shots). Additionally, they must present the issued boat number placard to the Weigh Master of the tournament. Failure to follow these steps will result in a penalty of 1 pound from the total weight.
38. The Tournament Weigh Master will review the recorded entries for a valid submission. The top teams and big fish will be reviewed via photos submitted to the Weigh Master before the results are certified.
39. Any discrepancies found when comparing submitted scorecards will be reviewed by a quorum of the Mississippi Walleye Club Board. Appropriate action will be taken, which may include suspension of the involved anglers from future tournaments.

Tournament Awards and Points System

40. 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” which 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”.
41. 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.

42. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place.
43. To maintain season long interest, a trophy will be awarded for the largest Walleye caught during the tournament season.
44. Points will be awarded according to the following system.

15 Points – 1 st Place	9 Points – 7 th Place	3 Points – 13 th Place
14 Points – 2 nd Place	8 Points – 8 th Place	2 Points – 14 th Place
13 Points – 3 rd Place	7 Points – 9 th Place	1 Point – 15 th Place
12 Points – 4 th Place	6 Points – 10 th Place	1 Point – All
11 Points – 5 th Place	5 Points – 11 th Place	participants
10 Points – 6 th Place	4 Points – 12 th Place	

- One point will be given to both team members for the biggest fish of the day. If there is a tie for the biggest fish of the day, each angler on each team will receive one point.
- Each angler will receive one point for fishing the tournament.
- 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.
- New members who have not fished more than one club tournament in prior years and who are 18 years of age or older are eligible for the Rookie of the Year award. An angler is eligible after they turn 18 even if they have fished a club tournament before.
- If there is a tie for rookie of the year, the total weight of fish caught for the year will determine the winner.
- 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, a 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 tournament 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.

- 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. To fish the NTC you must be a Federation member the year you qualified and you also must be a member the year you fish.

45. 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.
46. Once the Club is informed of the number of slots it has been awarded, an announcement will be made to all club members in good standing, in accordance with Rule 43. Any member wishing to submit a team of two club members must do so within 7 days of the announcement. The National Team Championship (NTC) entries will be allocated based on the standings for Angler of the Year.

If there are still entries available after this initial selection, a second announcement will be made to request team submissions from both club members and non-club members within an additional 7 days. NTC entries will again be offered in order of the Angler of the Year standings.

After this second round of selection, if any NTC entries remain, any club member may request an NTC entry according to Rule 42, on a first-come, first-served basis.

47. The following monetary awards will be reimbursed by the Mississippi Walleye Club to be used towards the Cabela 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
48. Teams are responsible for all other expenses.
49. ****Federation Membership****

The Club maintains a minimum of 12 memberships in the Walleye Federation in order to qualify for insurance. These twelve memberships are issued under the names of the Board members. To qualify for various national and regional tournaments, you must be a Federation member. This means you will need to sign up and pay for your own annual Federation membership. Our assigned club number is 6000100, and you should use this number when associating yourself with the club.