



## 2012 Official South Dakota Walleye Classic Rules

### 1. PARTICIPATES & ELIGIBILITY

- a. Each contestant must complete, sign and submit an official entry form along with the correct entry fee. Upon acceptance, applications will be entered into the fields or placed on an alternate list.
- b. Team must consist of 2 people 18 years of age or with a parent, must be capable of understanding and performing safety function. In good physical & mental condition.
- c. Each contestant must possess all necessary valid fishing licenses.
- d. The SDWC reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual who does not meet these criteria or who has been disciplined for tournament rules violations.
- e. Contestants must pay fees with check or money orders. **Payment must be received by the posted deadline.**

### 2. PROFESSIONAL APPLICATIONS:

- a. Tournament will be limited to 60 teams/60 co-anglers.
- b. Forms must be received along with the tournament entry fee
- c. Entries will be accepted up to August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Successful applicants will be notified upon acceptance and deadlines

### 3. CO-ANGLER APPLICATION

- a. Co-angler entries for individual events are \$300. Co-Anglers will be charged the tournament fee upon acceptance into the field. When all slots are filled, alternate lists will be maintained for the tournament. Alternates will be charged as they move into the tournament list. Paid contestants on the alternate list who do not make it into the tournament will receive a full refund.
- b. If there is no team attrition once the tournament has started, the last entered co-angler removed due to this situation will receive a full refund

### 4. SCORING

- a. This is a competitive team /co-angler fishing tournament. Teams will work together with their daily partners; the optimum learning occurs by observing the team in action. Team and co-anglers will fish together for the maximum boat weight. Each partner will carry the combine daily "boat" weight into the following competition day.
- b. Only walleye, sauger and saugeye will be weighed. Each boat may weigh in the daily tournament limit. Minimum sizes and limits will be announced prior to the tournament. Fish will be measured in accordance with the American Fisheries Society standards;

closed mouth, pinched tail. The official SDWC rules will be the tournament judge.

- c. Payout will be guaranteed if 60 team and 60 co-angler contestants fish.
- d. Twelve fish can be brought in. Once the twelfth fish is kept, the contestants must return to the weigh in station. Seven of these twelve fish will be weighed. Two of the seven can be 20 inches and over the remaining must be under 20 inches but not less than 14 inches. Any violation of these measurements will result in disqualification of the largest fish.

- e. There are no penalties assessed for dead fish, however anglers are asked to keep fish as presentable as possible. If your fish are not presentable, you will not be allowed any photo opportunities with your fish.
- f. Ties for any places will split awards
- g. In the event the final day is cancelled due to weather, the awards ceremony will be held as close to noon as possible.
- h. Any fish altered (before or after being caught) which enhances the weight or circumvents tournament slot limits, will result in loss of total weight for the day.  
Altering fish penalty: angler will be banned from SDWC tournaments in the future.

**5. CONTESTANT PAIRING:**

- a. Tournament officials will pair contestants. Co-anglers fish each day with a different team. The control of the boat will be granted to the team. Partners must discuss daily fishing plans, safety, electronics, fishing tactics, netting, etc. before each morning start.
- b. Partners are responsible for locating and meeting each other. Partner information cards will be distributed at the rules meeting.

**6. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE & REGISTRATION:**

- a. Team contestants must register at the Akaska Community Center between 3:00 and 6:00pm. Exceptions must be approved in advance with SDWC Director.
- b. All contestants must be off the water by 2:00 pm the day before the tournament. The rule meeting follows at 6:00 pm. All anglers must attend by 6:00 pm. Penalty for being late to the rules meeting: Contestants must pay \$100.00 fine.
- c. Co-angler contestants must register at the SDWC headquarters (Akaska Community Center) during one of the three days prior to the tournament. Late co-angler registrants may be replaced by alternated. Notify SDWC officials in advance, if you will register after 4:00 pm due to unforeseen circumstances.
- d. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to know the schedule of events for registration time and location and other meeting functions or obtain time from SDWC.

**7. TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

- a. SDWC tournament will be three days, unless delayed or shortened due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Boundaries are from the Railroad Bridge in Mobridge to the 212 Bridge by Gettysburg. The Moreau River and the Grand River are both open to anglers.
- b. No extra gas tanks are allowed
- c. Once a tournament day begins, a weigh-in will occur unless the day is cancelled by tournament officials. If a cancellation occurs, all contestants will be notified via marine band radio and a weigh-in will not be conducted. Upon notification, all boats will cease fishing and return immediately (advising all boats they encounter on the return). All boats should "echo response" the official cancellation-notice to assure all hear the message. All boats must contact SDWC officials as soon as they return to safe harbor.
- d. Contestants will check out each morning, and check in each afternoon at designated locations with official timekeepers. At check-in all contestants will be issued a number,

and then proceed to the dock in numerical order for a second mandatory check-in, with or without fish. SDWC officials will hold back leaders on the final day. Contestants who return late will forfeit their weight for the day. If a breakdown occurs, contestants may transfer fish only to another contestant's boats, but must return on time. They may also opt to be towed in by a contestant or non-contestant, but must return on time.

- e. When a contestant assist a boat in distress (tournament or non-tournament), contestant must note time and position and notify SDWC headquarters as soon as possible. Tournament Director may weigh fish late for the team contestant lending assistance if it is determined that the team could have made weigh-in time.
- f. Contestants must stay in contact with their boats, but may leave their boats for emergencies, to participate in a rescue operation, and to use bathroom facilities. One partner must stay in contact with boat (unless emergency prohibits anybody being in the boat)
- g. On tournament days, team/co-anglers must stay off tournament waters before and after tournament hours except to navigate in a straight line to a launch ramp, marina or lodging facilities.
- h. Pets are permitted in boats during competition.

#### **8. EQUIPMENT & TACKLE**

- a. Artificial lures and live bait are allowed
- b. All walleyes must be caught on hook and line. A maximum of two lines per contestant will be allowed.
- c. Team will provide a boat with all coast guard local, state and regional required safety equipment (including a type IV throw cushion, flare kit, distress flag, horn or whistle, and fire extinguisher). In addition, each boat is required to have a fully functional marine band radio, an operable bilge pump. At the tournament, a boat inspection may occur.
- d. Co-anglers are not permitted to bring any tackle or a GPS into the team's boat. Teams will provide partners with all tackle
- e. All marine band radios must be functional and tuned to the SDWC prescribed channel all day. A non-working radio will keep the team in the harbor until the radio is replaced or repaired
- f. Radio, pager, text messaging and phone communications are prohibited. Cellular phones must be turned off during competition hours, but they may be used for safety or emergency calls. IN THE EVENT OF A LIFE AND DEATH EMERGENCY, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS. For all other tournament emergencies, contact SDWC officials first.

#### **9. SAFETY**

- a. Each competitor must observe safe boat conduct, no-wake zones, and local navigation rules and demonstrate boating courtesy at all times.
- b. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver, which must be fully secured whenever running above trolling speed.

- c. Instant stop switches should be operable and in use when contestants are using the main combustion engine above trolling speed.
- d. Main combustion engine horsepower may not exceed the manufactures' original horsepower rating plate on the boat.
- e. All boats (tiller and console) must be equipped with a seat and at least one handle device for the co-angler to grip while underway.
- f. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than prescription) during tournament hours is prohibited.
- g. The Tournament Director may declare any entrant or participant ineligible to complete who may hinder or endanger the safety and well-being of any contestant or be unable to perform safety functions.
- h. If lightning is visible, use common sense. Proceed to safe water/shore as necessary.

#### **10. SPORTSMANSHIP.**

- a. All anglers are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times towards other teams, co-angler and non-contestants. This shall include the areas of safety, conservation, civility and courtesy. Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing.
- b. Any contestant's conduct or actions, which negatively reflect on the SDWC, the natural resources, other contestants, sponsors or the host community at any time, will be subject to disqualification.
- c. Co-anglers may not recommend or share fishing spots or other "how-to" information with their teams. Co-anglers who share their teams fishing spots with any other contestants will be disqualified along with the person utilizing the information. Non-contestants will not be allowed to anchor or hold spots for SDWC contestants.
- d. Radar may only be used in emergencies or for navigation. No binoculars in boat while in this tournament
- e. In view of the expense involved in operating a fully rigged walleye tournament boat, it is suggested that the co-angler contribute to the daily fuel cost

#### **11. RULES & INTERPRETATION**

- a. The Tournament Director will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and his decision in all disputes if final.
- b. Contestants will be responsible for knowing and abiding by all SDWC, STATE, and LOCAL rules and regulations, which pertain to the tournament waters.
- c. All protest must be made with the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of completion of daily weigh-in. Following interviews with the concerned parties, a ruling will be made. In the event rulers infractions are brought to the Tournament Director's attention at any time, and it is determined a violation occurred; daily and/or tournament weight may be forfeited as well as cash, prizes and awards.