



2023 Official South Dakota Walleye Classic Rules

1. Participants and 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 field or placed on an alternate list.
- b. Team must consist of 2 or 3 people 18 years of age or with a parent/guardian, must be capable of understanding and performing safety functions. In good physical and 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 rule violations.

2. Contestants must pay fees with check, or money order.

- a. Tournament will be limited to **100** teams.
- b. Forms must be received along with tournament entry fee.
- c. Entries will be accepted up to July **17, 2023**. Successful applicants will be notified upon acceptance.

3. Scoring

- a. This is a competitive fishing tournament. Teams will work together to obtain the maximum daily limit and weight. Weights will be carried forward to the next day of competition.
- b. Only walleye, sauger and saugeye will be weighed. Each boat may weigh in 7 fish daily. Minimum size 14". Only 2 fish may be 20" or longer. Fish will be measured in accordance with the American Fisheries Society standards; closed mouth and pinched tail. The SDWC rules will be the tournament judge.
- c. Payouts will be guaranteed if **75** teams are entered. 100% of the entry fee will be paid.

1st Place \$6750.00

2nd Place \$4500.00

3rd Place \$3375.00

4th Place \$2250.00

5th Place \$1125.00

6th thru 10th Place \$900.00

Based on 75 Teams.

- d. 12 fish (3 person team) 8 fish (2 person team) may be brought in. Once the 12th or 8th fish is kept, the contestants must return to the bump station. 7 of these 12 or 8 fish will be weighed. 2 of these fish can be 20" or over and the rest must be less than 20" but not less than 14". Any violation of these measurements will result in the disqualification of the largest fish.
- e. There is no penalty 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 opportunity with your fish.
- f. Ties for any place will split awards.
- g. In the event the final day is cancelled due to weather, the awards ceremony will be scheduled 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 the loss of the total weight for the day. Altering fish penalty: angler/anglers will be banned from SDWC tournaments in the future.

4. PRE- Tournament Practice and Registration

- a. Teams must register at the Akaska Community Center between 3:00 and 5:00 P.M. **July 20, 2023**. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Tournament Director.
- b. All teams must be off the water by 2:30 P.M. **July 20, 2023**. The rules meeting will be held at the Akaska Community Center at 5:00 P.M. Thursday **July 20, 2023**. One member from each team must be present at the rules meeting. Penalty for being late for the rules meeting is \$100.00 assessed against the team.
- c. It shall be the competitor's responsibility to know the schedule of events for registration time and location and other meeting functions or obtain the times from SDWC.
- d. **The first day the boats will be released in the order their entries were received by the tournament director and the second day the order will be reversed.**

5. Tournament Format

- a. SDWC will be a two day tournament unless delayed or shortened due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. **The Boundaries are north to Highway 12 bridge (under but not beyond) and south to Highway 212 bridge (under but not beyond) The Moreau River is included within the boundaries.**

- b. Once a tournament day begins, a weigh-in will occur unless the day is cancelled by tournament officials. If 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.
- c. Contestants will check out each morning, and check in each afternoon at the designated location with the official timekeeper. At registration each team will receive a boat number which must be present in the boat at all times and shown to tournament officials upon request. **In event that a tournament boat has maintenance issues and cannot proceed in time to make the official weigh-in time they must call or text the Tournament Director immediately. They must declare the number and size of the fish in their possession. The time of contact will be noted. Only once this has been done may they radio text or call for assistance from any angler. The assisting boat must contact the Tournament Director by phone or text and declare the number of fish and size onboard their boat prior to loading the team member(s) and their fish onto the rescue boat. The rescue boat must then immediately and directly proceed to and report to check in boat and bump station. The official weigh-in time still prevails.** Contestants who return late will forfeit their weight for the day. Contestants must stay in contact with their boat, but may leave their boat for emergencies, to participate in rescue operations, or to use the bathroom. One team member must stay in contact with the boat (unless an emergency prohibits).
- d. On tournament days, teams must stay off tournament waters before and after tournament hours except to navigate in a straight line to the launch ramp.
- e. Pets are permitted in boats during competition.
- f. Contestant boats may not come along side each other during the tournament hours (except during emergency assistance reported to tournament officials)

6. Equipment and Tackle

- a. Artificial lures and live bait are allowed.
- b. All fish must be caught on hook and line. A maximum of two lines per contestant will be allowed.
- c. Teams will provide a boat with all coast guard local, state and regional safety equipment (including 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 and an operational bilge pump. A boat inspection may occur.
- d. All marine band radios must be functional and tuned to the SDWC designated channel at all times during the tournament. A non-working radio will keep the boat in the bay until repairs are made so that is fully functional.
- e. Radio, pager, text messaging and phone communications are prohibited. Cellular phones must be turned off during completion hours but may be used for safety or emergency calls. **IN THE EVENT OF A LIFE AND DEATH EMERGENCY CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.** For all other tournament emergencies, contact SDWC officials first.

7. **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. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than prescription) is strictly prohibited.
- d. The tournament director may declare any entrant or participant ineligible to compete who may hinder or endanger the safety and well-being of any contestant or be able to perform safety functions.
- e. If lightning is visible, use common sense. Proceed to safe water/shore as necessary.

8. **Sportsmanship**

- a. All anglers are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- b. Any contestant's conduct or actions, which negatively reflect on the SDWC, the natural resources, other contestants, sponsors or host community at any time, will be subject to disqualification.

9. **Rules and Interpretation**

- a. The Tournament Director will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and his decision shall be 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 protests must be made in writing with the tournament director within 30 minutes of the completion of the daily weigh-in. After review the tournament director shall rule on the matter and take appropriate action in accordance with the tournament rules.

10. **Be Advised:** Under South Dakota law, no fishing tournament sponsor or fishing professional is liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant resulting from the inherent risks of fishing, pursuant to 20-9-47 to 20-9-51 of South Dakota Codified Laws.

Note: ALL FISH AT THE BUMP STATION AND WEIGH-IN WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY