

2015 DEVILS LAKE CHAMBER WALLEYE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES

Please note: The 2015 tournament will be a Friday – Saturday tournament with a Sunday optional day in case of inclement weather.

ELIGIBILITY: Any person 18 years old and older will be eligible to compete. Persons under 18 years old can participate only as a teammate of a parent, guardian or relative 18 years or older. The \$235.00 entry fee plus the \$40 banquet fee, for a **total of \$275 per team**. If both team members are under 21 and meet the criteria to be a legal team, the entry fee for the tournament is only \$235. Entries must be completed and signed by each member of the team: two (2) people per boat. Tournament officials will make a reasonable effort to assist persons with handicap or individual needs. Please notify the Chamber prior to the rules meeting of any such needs 662-4903.

TEAM MEMBER REPLACEMENT: All partner and team changes must be made **prior to 12:00 p.m.** (Noon) official time on **Thursday, June 25, 2015** and **with the approval** of the tournament coordinator. If one of the original two-team members drops out, he/she may be replaced by the choice of the remaining team member. **A payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25) and properly filled out paperwork is due at the time of the partner change.** If both original team members drop out (either together or sequentially), and it is prior to noon official time on Thursday, June 25, 2015 teams on the waiting list will be given an opportunity to fill the spot(s). **Only** if tournament coordinator is successful in replacing the dropped team will entry fee(s) be refunded, less a \$50 per team fee, and then NOT until after the tournament. No Exception.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: **Ends 3:00 p.m. Thursday, June 25, 2015.** No contestant is allowed on the water except during tournament hours after this time.

RULES MEETING & BANQUET: **Registration will be Thursday, June 25, 2015 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** official time at Grahams Island State Park. **Rules meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.** official time. **ONE MEMBER OF EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT.** It is the responsibility of each team to **register by 6:00 p.m.; failure will result in disqualification and forfeit of entry fee.** The Banquet will start at 5:00 pm.

OFFICIAL TIME/MEASURING BOARD: Official tournament time may be obtained by calling 701-662-1111. Official Time Clock and Measuring Board will be available for comparison at registration.

FISHING HOURS & FLIGHTS: Friday, June 26, 2015, eight (8) hours of competition and Saturday, June 27, 2015, eight (8) hours of competition. Explanation of flights, check-in & check-out location presented at tournament rules meeting. Sunday, June 28, 2015 will be used if necessary to hold a two-day tournament. All team numbers and flights will be done by random draw.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Each team **MUST** check-in and check-out EACH day with tournament officials at the specified location. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the tournament and any tournament prizes. Upon cancellation of the tournament, whether first or second day, each team **MUST** check-out with tournament officials at the specified location. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the tournament and any tournament prizes. At the time of check-in, every boat will undergo an inspection. If not adhered to, disqualification will result. **All boats are required to trailer to tournament launch location.** No boats will be allowed to check-in by coming across water from another landing.

INSPECTION: Boats will be inspected before, after and possibly during the tournament. Cheating will result in disqualification.

BOAT INSPECTION: The Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce **requires** that all contestants' clean, dry & wash their boats (**especially if boat has been in other waters**) live wells and trailers prior to entering Devils Lake for pre-fishing or tournament activities. All boats are required to be inspected for ANS and certified ANS free prior to first launch for tournament activities. **Morning boat inspection will include ANS inspection and those who do not pass inspection will be disqualified.** The boat inspection is located at Ed's Bait Shop, Hwy 20 South, and will be inspected during normal business hours. You must obtain an ANS inspection sticker to enter the tournament.

ALCOHOL POLICY: No alcohol is allowed in the boat during the tournament. No alcohol consumption by anglers is allowed until after your team's weigh-in. No alcohol or open containers on stage or in photos.

STAGE INTERVIEWS: I agree to go up on stage with/without my team's catch for an interview with the MC.

TACKLE: Artificial and live baits may be used in accordance with North Dakota Game & Fish Department regulations.

REGULATIONS: All contestants must observe U.S. Coast Guard & North Dakota Game & Fish Department rules, regulations, laws & license requirements. All boats must carry required safety items. **Each contestant must wear a PFD at all times when boat is above trolling speed or on plane.** Contestants may use no more than two fishing lines per person at one time on Devils Lake under North Dakota Game & Fish Department regulations.

COMMUNICATION & VISUAL AID DEVICES: CB & Marine radios and cell telephones will be permitted for **emergency transmissions ONLY.** **Transmitting information concerning any aspect of the taking of fish during the tournament is prohibited.** This includes, but is not limited to: verbal communication with non-tournament anglers and boaters, binoculars, spotting scopes, underwater cameras, text messaging or other visual aid devices. All are prohibited. **Any team caught communicating or using such devices will be disqualified.**

FISHING: It shall be illegal for two (2) boats to pull up to each other during tournament hours. Fishing contestants must remain a minimum of fifty (50) feet from other contestant's boats when fishing. **Contestants may not leave the boat at any time** to land fish, untangle line or lures or for any other reason. Exception – in the event of hazardous weather contestants may take any safety precautions necessary including leaving the lake. Consequence for leaving your boat in non-emergency situations will be forfeiture of that day's weight. **Check-in is still required in every case.** Contestant boats are allowed to return to the tournament launch location during tournament hours for emergency services, repairs, wait out inclement weather, etc. Contestants not weighing in will be allowed to depart from tournament launch location after undergoing an inspection process again.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: The Tournament Committee has the right to postpone or cancel that day's fishing due to inclement weather. If a day of fishing is cancelled, Sunday will be used as an optional fishing day. If both days are cancelled, drawings will be held for all prizes. **In the event of cancellation after boats have been released to the water please note the following:** 1) All boats must check back in with tournament officials, & 2) No fish will be weighed. **Failure to check in will result in disqualification & loss of eligibility for all prizes.** All boats not returning to harbor of launch must contact a tournament official for notification of safe return. Weather cancellation determination prior to launch will be made by the following: tournament officials & 1 member or team captain from each team in the tournament & a vote will be taken. Once launched & cancellation has to be determined, the decision will be made by tournament committee and authorities including park officials, sheriff and Search & Rescue.

DEVILS LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 879 Devils Lake, ND 58301

Return Service Requested

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Devils Lake, ND 58301

FISHING AREA: Fishing area will be any part of Devils Lake that is accessible by water from the launch site. All other accessible water by boat from tournament launch location shall be open to fishing unless otherwise noted at the rules meeting.

LATE PENALTY: Contestants who return later than the prescribed time, will be penalized five (5%) percent of their day's weight for the first minute and two (2%) percent for each additional minute up to 15 minutes, and will be disqualified from the largest fish prizes. Over 15 minutes late will be disqualified for the day. Teams have up to 1 hour after weigh-in closes to check-in. **ANY TEAM THAT FAILS TO CHECK-IN AFTER EITHER DAY OF FISHING WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT.** Any expense incurred in sending Search and Rescue personnel out will be your financial responsibility.

FISH HANDLING: Contestants are to use live wells or coolers to keep fish in during the tournament. If any fish are questionable (white gills, soft flesh, sunken eyes, etc.) due to poor handling by a team, these fish will NOT be counted and team disqualification may result based on the judgment of the officials. No stringers or baskets!

SCALES & WEIGH-IN: The scales for weigh-in of fish will be open after 12 p.m. each fishing day. Once a team has weighed in their catch, they are NOT permitted to go back out to try for any other specie or tournament weight. Under NO circumstances shall anyone other than the team members or tournament officials, handle or touch the catch until after it has been presented to the officials at the weigh-in scale. **One team member must verify weights and initial the scale ticket.** Initialing means acceptance of the weight as written.

SCORING: This is not a catch and release tournament. **TEAMS ARE PERMITTED ONLY 6 WALLEYE IN THE BOAT,** but scoring is based on five walleye per day. Teams are permitted to bring only five walleye to the scale; the remainder fish must be retained in your boat. Minimum walleye length for scoring is fifteen (15") inches. Scoring is by total weight. Reminder, ND Game & Fish does not permit the culling of fish. Once a fish has been committed to your live well you must take possession of it.

PRIZES: Prizes will be awarded on a team basis. Prizes will be announced at the completion of the tournament after tournament officials make verification. All payouts for cash prizes are based on a full field of 150 TEAMS with the exception of 1st place, which is guaranteed. Balance of payout will be based on number of tournament entries. Ties will be resolved by awarding the place to the team with the largest Saturday catch. Placing will be adjusted accordingly. In the event it becomes a one-day tournament, prizes will be awarded on the other day's standings. Cash payments will be issued to individual team members within 10 working days of the tournament after verification of results by tournament officials has been made. **Sponsors, supporters or other invested parties may offer contingency prizes and are the sole responsibility of them to fulfill.** These will be posted and/or announced at the rules meeting.

APPLICABLE TAXES: Contestants alone are responsible for any applicable taxes due on any prize won in compliance with Federal and State tax laws. Contestants agree to provide their Social Security number if eligible for any prize. Individual or combined prize amounts totaling over \$600 will receive tax form 1099.

SPORTSMANSHIP/SPIRIT OF THE RULES: Contestants will be expected to be courteous, safety conscious and practice fundamental sporting principles. All rules have loopholes. It is the intention of the sponsors to provide an honest sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rules" will prevail in all judgment cases. No participant shall use vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language towards tournament officials or volunteers. Use of such language or gestures will result in immediate disqualification from the Chamber tournament and any prize awards. Any person disqualified under these rules may not be eligible to fish future Chamber tournaments. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please respect other on the water as well as the volunteers who make this tournament a success.

PROTESTS: Only contestants and tournament officials have the right to contest the actions of another team or contestant. Protests by contestants must be filed in writing with the tournament director, in person, no later than one (1) hour after the close of that fishing day. **One hundred (\$100) dollar protest fee must accompany any protest offered by a contestant.** The three (3) person tournament committee will convene to investigate and make a decision regarding the protest. The Protest Committee and their agents are authorized to utilize polygraph examinations and any other investigative techniques, including testimony under oath, in order to determine the validity of the protest or the charge against any contestant(s). The decision of the Protest Committee shall be by a majority vote and shall be final in all cases. Contestants waive any right or opportunity to appeal the decision of the Protest Committee to a higher authority including any court or jurisdiction in this or any other state. If a protest by a contestant is found to be valid, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is found invalid, the fee will not be returned. Any person found violating the rules may be immediately disqualified and the reasons for said disqualification announced at weigh-in.

POLYGRAPH: All teams are subject to, and awards will be based on polygraph tests or voice stress tests (if administered).

PHOTO RELEASE: I understand that photographs, film or videotapes of me during my participation in the tournament may be used for commercial purposes by tournament organizers, sponsors and the news media without royalties or prior consent.

INTERPRETATION OF THESE RULES IS LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL(S) AND SHALL BE FINAL IN ALL MATTERS. FURTHER, TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL(S) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY TO ANY INDIVIDUAL.

To contact Tournament Director, Johnnie Candle, call 701-371-9431, or Tournament Coordinator, Suzie Kenner at 701-662-4903. Monday –Friday 8a.m.-5p.m.

Detach Here, Complete and Mail with \$275 Entry Fee to: Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 879, Devils Lake, ND 58301 – Phone: 701-662-4903

Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament Official Entry Form–For June 26 & 27, 2015

FIRST PARTNER NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

DAYTIME PHONE NO. () _____ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____ **SHIRT/JACKET SIZE:** L XL 2XL 3XL

SECOND PARTNER NAME: _____ MALE FEMALE

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

DAYTIME PHONE NO. () _____ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____ **SHIRT/JACKET SIZE:** L XL 2XL 3XL

CELL #(S) YOU CAN BE REACHED ON THE WATER FOR SAFETY. () _____

Release of Liability/Waiver: We the undersigned hereby release the Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament and their agents from any and all liability for death, injury, damage, theft, fire or any loss occurring during this event. We having read and understand the rules as printed on this application and agree to comply with them. By signing this application we hereby agree to all terms and conditions of this tournament including submitting to a polygraph test if and when directed to.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____