

# Nebraska Walleye Association

## Tournament Rules and Regulations

EFFECTIVE – 11/18/21

SUPERSEDES – 12/05/20

### 1. Participation and Eligibility

- A. Any Person 17 years or younger must be paired with their parent or guardian.
- B. Entrants must have in their possession a valid fishing license.
- C. Each team must consist of two current NWA members fishing in the same boat during tournament hours.
- D. Substitutions are permitted in qualifying tournaments; however, the substitute must be declared before the end of that tournament rules meeting. The substitute must be an NWA member and the tournament registration form must be completed identifying the substitute, and who the substitution is for.
- E. A substitute is allowed for one event per team, per tournament season. Each tournament is considered one event. No individual points will be given to the substitute to be used towards any other team beyond the team the substitution was originally designated for.
- F. The NWA has the right to refuse acceptance of entry applications.

### 2. Boat, Fish and Equipment

- A. All teams are subject to inspection during tournament hours. NWA patrol boats may come alongside and conduct in-boat inspections.
- B. CB, Marine Band Radios and Cell Phones are for emergency calls only. Any transmission via phone or radio that is non-emergency is grounds for disqualification. The NWA may inspect phones for use during tournament hours. If there has been use, this will be grounds for disqualification.
- C. All fish must be kept in a functioning adequately aerated live well to keep fish alive and healthy for eventual release. The use of coolers, fish stringers or wire baskets is not permissible. The showing of white gills, soft flesh, or sunken eyes may result in disqualification. The final determination will be by the Bump Master during tournament weigh-ins.
- D. Only fish that are of legal length are eligible towards a 5 fish daily weigh in limit. Attempting to weigh fish outside the legal limits could result in disqualification. Slot length limit regulations for each individual lake will be followed.
- E. All state fishing regulations will apply. The NGPC Catch, Weigh-in, and Release Walleye Tournament Rules are listed below.

### 3. Good Sportsmanship and Safety

- A. High standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and safety are expected from all participants. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship may be disqualified.
- B. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations.
- C. In the event of a storm or lightning, teams may pull into shore for safety.
- D. No alcohol beverages may be consumed 2 hours before or during tournament hours.
- E. **All contestants must wear a US Coast Guard approved life jacket, with a kill switch attached to the boat operator any time during tournament hours while the boat is on plane.** Failure to do so could result in a warning being issued or immediate disqualification based on the level of negligence witnessed.

### 4. Boat Release and Fishing Hours

- A. All boats released from the flight holding area, must idle out past the marked buoys. Any boat not complying with this rule and risking the safety of other teams may result in a warning being issued or immediate disqualification based on the level of negligence witnessed.
- B. Boats will be released in flights pursuant to assigned team numbers.
- C. Tournament fishing hours and official safety check points for morning boat inspection checkout and afternoon check- in locations will be announced at the rule's meetings.
- D. During the morning boat check out you can expect inspectors to assure your live wells are empty, life jackets, float cushion, kill switch and fire extinguisher are available, upon passing the inspection you will be given a fob with your assigned boat number. The fob is designed to act as proof you are present, your boat was inspected, and most importantly, you made it back in at the end of the day, **YOU MUST CHECK IN WITH YOUR FOB EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE FISH!!!** Not checking in is an automatic 50-point deduction from a team's Top Gun total.
- E. **Late Penalty** – Teams who are not at the official morning take off zone at the appointed return time shall be penalized at a rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any Big Fish Award. Any team more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that days catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case will a team be allowed to make up "lost time". Return time shall be defined as off plane and plainly visible by the official timekeeper.
- F. Tournament practice is allowed up to **two** hours prior to the Rules Meeting, otherwise the lake will remain off limits until the official tournament end time.
- G. The morning of the tournament, all boats will be allowed to use any ramp, on the lake, but they must navigate directly to the designated starting point. Any boats dropping buoy markers or searching possible fishing areas will be disqualified.
- H. Boundaries will be explained at rules meetings.

## 5. Rule Violations

- A. Rules violation warning: Dependent of the severity, a rules violation could result in an immediate disqualification, or a warning being issued.
- B. Warnings will be recorded and remain in effect for the entire tournament season.
- C. Two warnings for any violation, or a combination of violations will result in disqualification.
- D. Warnings for a combination of rules broken will result in disqualification of the tournament the second warning was issued in.
- E. Warnings for the same violation, will result in disqualification of both tournaments the violations were committed, or the loss of 100 point, whichever is greater.
- F. Tournaments that resulted in a disqualification will be treated as if not fished, therefor they cannot be used as toss out tournaments for end of the season Top Gun point calculations.
- G. The Tournament Director has the right and final say to disqualify any team for rules violations he feels there's justification in such act for the level of negligence committed.

## 6. Prizes and Scoring

- A. The NWA will pay awards based on a 1 in 8 format.
- B. The NWA official means of measurement will be the Lakeborne Tackle Co. "The Judge Tournament Ruler". It is the sole responsibility of the tournament anglers to assure their means of measurement coincide with the NWA.
- C. Fish will be measured by a tournament official with the fish's mouth closed and the longest straight line. Only fish which measure the official length(s) shall be weighed in. Fish presented for weigh in which fail to measure

the official length limits shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal fish. Once a competitor's catch has been presented to tournament officials, that team may not alter or add to their catch or return to their boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded.

D. The Bump Master has the final say as to whether a fish is alive or dead, each dead fish will be omitted from the total weight.

E. All prizes will be awarded by a team's total weight, except for Big Fish prize, which will be awarded individually. At least one team member must accompany the catch to the scale.

F. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the heaviest single fish.

G. In the event of a Big Fish tie, the winner will be determined by heaviest total weight.

## **7. Protest and Waiver**

A. The tournament committee, or any contestant, has the right to protest another team or contestant. The protest must be filed in writing with the tournament committee no later than ½ hour after the close of tournament fishing hours. The tournament committee will convene to hear both sides of the protest. A polygraph may be utilized if so decided by the tournament committee. The decision of the tournament committee shall be final in all cases. A \$250.00 protest fee must accompany each written protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. If the protest is valid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative cost, including the polygraph. If the protest is invalid, the fee will not be returned.

B. Promoters, Tournament Directors, Sponsors, Tournament Committee, Organizations and Individuals assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies, agents, etc. are not responsible for deaths, injuries, damages, liability, theft, fire, or any loss of any kind to entrants. Each entrant upon signing an entry form will be signing a waiver form.

C. Disqualification from the tournament will result in forfeiture of entry fee.

D. All rules have "loopholes". In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgment cases.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

A. No refund of entry fee for cancellation will be issued within one week prior to tournament. There will be a \$25.00 service charge per team retained on all refunds of entry fees regardless of cancellation date.

B. Catch and release is optional, teams may keep their legal limit within the state rules and regulations.

C. All participants must check in prior to the start of the pre-tournament rules meeting.

D. The rules meeting is mandatory. At least one team member must attend the start of the rules meeting or the team is subject to disqualification without refund of entry fee.

E. During tournament hours both contestants must stay on the boat, unless weighing in fish early or at the weigh in marina.

F. Any teams, that try, to gain an unfair advantage in any way not mentioned may be subject to disqualification.

G. Each contestant agrees to submit to and pay for a truth verification test. Refusal to submit to and pay for such a test will be viewed as an admission of guilt and will result in disqualification.

H. The tournament committee has the right to delay, reschedule, or cancel any tournament due to unforeseen or unsafe conditions.

I. The tournament committee has the right to change tournament lake location 10 days prior to the scheduled

tournament date. In this situation, entry fees will not be refunded, and teams are required to fish the new location.

J. Contestants are responsible for all applicable taxes.

K. The tournament committee has the right to review any requests that are exceptions to the above rules and regulations.

## **Top Gun and NWA State Championship Programs**

The Top Gun Awards are designed to recognize the top teams throughout the season based upon the total number of points at the end of the year.

Both members of the team must be an NWA member at each point qualifying event to qualify for the Top Gun Program, NWA State Championship contingency awards, and any postseason qualifying events.

### **The Top Gun Program will be structured in the following way:**

1. Teams consist of 2 NWA members.

2. Individuals must declare if they are members of the primary team or a substitute at each individual tournament.

3. Including the State Championship there are 5 Top Gun point qualifying tournaments.

From those 5 tournaments, Top Gun Awards will be based on points from the team's best 4 of 5 finishes.

Ties will be decided amongst the higher scoring team from all 5 tournaments.

4. Qualifying tournaments equals any NWA tournament fished by two NWA members where a minimum of 15 point was awarded.

5. Top Gun points will apply towards NTC slot allocations, as well as payout awards to the top 3 teams of the year.

Payouts for Top Gun are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> = \$1,000 / 2<sup>nd</sup> = \$750 / 3<sup>rd</sup> = \$500

6. Points are accumulated at each qualifying tournament, 1<sup>st</sup> 110 points / 2<sup>nd</sup> 105 / 3<sup>rd</sup> 103 / 4<sup>th</sup> 101 / 5<sup>th</sup> 100 / 6<sup>th</sup> 99 / 7<sup>th</sup> 98 / 8<sup>th</sup> 97 / 9<sup>th</sup> 96 / 10<sup>th</sup> 95, etc.

7. Points are awarded to each team based on their finish in reference to the entire tournament field that are NWA members. In the event a team fails to weigh a fish, the team will be awarded 15 points for participating in the tournament.

8. ***Beginning in 2022 any team competing in their 4<sup>th</sup> qualifying tournament prior to the NWA State Championship Tournament, will automatically receive an additional 30 Top Gun bonus points, these points will be calculated into the team's Top Gun point total.***

9. All point standings will be posted on the NWA website within one week of the conclusion of the tournament. Any protest or question concerning the point standings must be brought to the attention of the tournament director no later than one week before the start of the next tournament.

10. To qualify for the NWA State Championship Tournament, a team must have fished a minimum of 3 qualifying NWA tournaments. Qualifying tournaments equals any NWA tournament fished by two NWA members where a minimum of 15 point was awarded.