

Tournament Format and Eligibility

1. Tournaments sanctioned by The Northern Ontario Walleye Trail (NOWT) follow a two (2) day – two (2) person team format.
2. ANGLER REPLACEMENT PROVISIONS - If, after competition has started and a team member is unable to compete because of medical, family or other justified reasons, the remaining team member will be given the option to replace the leaving team member with another angler or finish the tournament alone. If the angler chooses to continue to fish alone, they must abide by Ontario fishing regulations (they can only retain to a maximum of one fish over 46cm and three under 46cm). If the angler chooses to replace the missing angler, the replacement angler must not have been on tournament waters during competition. The Tournament Director must approve all angler replacements.
3. Entry fee – \$335.00 per team
4. Winners determined by the largest combined two (2) day weight.
5. Fishing hours – **Day 1 Saturday July 25th 7:30am to 4pm / Day 2 Sunday July 26 th 7:30am to 3pm**
6. Host communities must have an official registration form signed by each team member showing payment details. The Tournament Director can refuse registrations at their discretion.
7. Disqualification from the tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee. No Refunds or credits extended to teams that choose not to fish due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances.
8. No tournament boat is allowed pre-fishing effective at 5:00pm on the Friday before the tournament. No fishing will be allowed after the posted tournament hours between Friday and Sunday.
9. The Tournament Directors retain the right to change and/or amend these rules at their discretion without prior notification. **The final approved tournament rules will be reviewed at the Friday night rules meeting.**

Orientation / Rules Meeting

10. At least one team member MUST attend the rules meeting on Friday night (at the Lakeside Center). If you a member fails to attend the rule meeting without making arrangements with an official, the team will not be allowed to leave Saturday morning until the rules are read. Once all boats have departed on Saturday morning, that is when we are able to go over the rules with those who missed the meeting. Absolutely No exceptions!!! ****NOTE** Just picking up your package does not count as being present at the rule meeting. **The boat # will be given after the rule meeting.**
11. LWM will take any new registrations to its tournaments and sign waivers from 5pm to 6:45pm on Friday night before the tournament. .
12. BOTH TEAM MEMBER MUST SIGN THE ENTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THE WAIVER OF CLAIM, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT. **If any member fails to sign the waiver, that team will not be allowed to fish.**

Live Release of Fish

13. Every effort must be made to keep the Walleye alive through the use of built-in or securely fastened, properly aerated or circulating live wells.
14. Fish, which are brought to the weigh scale, must be alive in order to be weighed in as part of the team's daily limit. A fish is deemed alive & weighable if the gills are moving in and out (breathing). Dead fish count towards the (6) six fish limit however the weight of the fish will not be added to the total weight for that team. An alive fish that cannot be released or a dead fish will be returned to the angler unless tournament committee accepts the responsibility.
15. Under no circumstances can fish be purposely altered. Any fish mauled, stringed, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gill or soft flesh that causes suspicious that it is being fraudulently entered into the Tournament will result in that team(s) immediate disqualification. **Any participant found violating this rules of the Tournament may be disqualified.**
16. All fish must be released back into the Long Lake by tournament officials.

Any fish deemed un-releasable will be returned to the angler

Morning Equipment Inspections

17. Boat inspections will take place each morning at the Lakeside Center (weigh in station). Boat inspections will start at 6:00am.
18. Teams must have all coolers, hatches and live wells open for easy inspection.
19. Upon completion of daily inspection, tournament officials will give the boat a proof of inspection at the weigh-in station. Failure to show up for morning inspection will result in disqualification of that day.
20. Following check-in, boats will stage inside the designated area on the lake.

21. Once a team's boat is inspected and the official starts, under no circumstances will a competitor's boat pull alongside another competitor's boat at anytime

Starting Procedure

22. Full and complete starting and weigh in procedures will be explained in detail at the rules meeting.
23. The Official Starter will release the teams one at a time using a trickle start, beginning at 7:30 AM. Each boat will start approximately 5-10 seconds apart.
24. Following check-in, boats will stage inside the designated area on the lake.
25. The Official Starter will announce the boat number over a megaphone. **One member of the boat must raise their hand and get the attention of the announcer. Boat numbers MUST BE affixed to both sides of the boat motor or console.** Once the starter verifies the team number and the prior boat is safely away, the announcer will announce 'TEAM # GO' over the mega phone. The boat can power up after the buoys. All anglers must ensure no wake until they have cleared the buoys. All boats must travel between the starting buoy and pontoon boat.

SPACER First Day Start (Saturday)

Boat 1 draw (5 minutes' head start) takes off at 7:25 AM - **Saturday only**

Saturday FISHING HOURS 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Boats will start one at a time. Starting order will be determined by their team numbers.

Day Two Start (Sunday)

Sunday FISHING HOURS 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Boats will again start one at a time. **Boat line up will be determined according to DAY ONE RANK.** Ties will be broken by the earlier registration/lower team number.

Boundaries

26. The tournament boundaries are the highway 11 train bridge, Suicide River bridge & Taylor bridge.

WEIGHING FISH/Scoring

27. All teams, which are not in the designated finishing area on time at the end of the fishing day, will be disqualified. That means the team will not be allowed to weigh in their catch for that day.
28. At the end of the day, there will be no cutting in line. Make sure you go through all the buoys (will be explained at the rule meeting). **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
29. Only walleye qualify for weigh in.
30. Both members of the team must remain in their boat until a tournament official comes to the boat with a weigh-in bag. *Please double check your bags for possible holes
31. Each team's fish must be presented to the Weigh Master or his/her Assistants in the bag supplied by the Tournament Organizers. *The team is then responsible for placing their own fish in the weigh-in bag and carrying them to the weigh scale. *Dock hands can come to aid if permission is giving by the captain of the team and a witness present. Dock hands are never responsible for the walleye.
32. The officials are allowed at any time to refuse a walleye in a bad condition. A dead walleye will be refused to be weighed in, but no penalty will be given (this dead walleye will count towards your daily limit of 6)
33. A daily limit of SIX (6) Walleye per team will be weighed, only two (2) of which can be greater than (46 cm) in length. If a fish tail, while being pinched touches the 46 cm line the fish will be deemed an "over". The tournament official measuring the fish will have the final say as to whether a fish exceeds 46 cm.
34. The Daily Ministry of Natural Resources limit may be kept while angling.
35. Any team checking out for the day must proceed to weigh in with only 6 walleyes in possession with only 2 walleyes over 46 cm. If a team who has weighed walleye during the day for any reason, is considered in possession for that day and must subtract that from their check out possession of 6. If a team proceeds to checkout (weigh in) exceeding their 6 walleyes limit for the day, the tournament committee will determine their penalty based on the level of infraction or infractions.
36. Every walleye close to the 46cm will be measured before weighing them.
37. All the fish brought to the station counts in the daily total weight. The Officials will not measure or weigh any fish just to verify with our equipment. **The official tournament measuring device will be available Friday evening prior to the event for teams to check their measuring device against the tournament measuring device for accuracy/consistency.**

38. The weight master must confirm the walleye are alive and fill out the weigh-in form appropriately.
39. The members of the team are responsible to make sure that the weighing scale and the official form are the same. One team member must sign the weigh-in form recording the weight of the catch.
40. All weights, upon verbal acceptance by the Team Captain, and then publicly called by the Weigh-master are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
41. THE DECISION OF THE WEIGH-MASTER IS FINAL.
42. Only walleye is allowed in the boat unless a foul hook issue or health of fish is in question. All necessary action should be taken to release all fish. Any other species kept besides walleye must be declared at weigh in station with an explanation, failure to do so could result in a penalty or disqualification once reviewed by the tournament director and committee.

Day 2 TOP TEN Weigh-in

43. Those teams which are in the top ten following day one will weigh their catch following all other team weigh-ins.
44. These teams will weigh in reverse order starting from 10th place to 1st place.
45. There will be a **top ten meeting Saturday night at 7pm** where teams will be given instructions for Sunday

Sportsmanship and Courtesy

46. Using cell phone during fishing hours to contact other anglers on the water to share information is prohibited... It is strictly prohibited for any competitor to give, offer, accept or suggest the exchange of any item including weighable fish to, from or with any competitor or non-competitor.
47. Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, particularly with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of a non-competitor.
48. There is a Zero tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike conduct and an automatic disqualification will result without refund (unsportsmanlike conduct must not be confused with ethics). All Competitors are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that is recognition to themselves, LWM, NOWT, LWM & NOWT sponsors, and the sport of fishing.
49. All competitors must remain twenty (20) feet from another competitor's boat. Key is communication with other anglers. Please refer to rule #48. Anyone disrespecting that rule may be subject to disqualification.

Rules(s) Violations, Protests and Appeals

50. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported to tournament officials on an Incident Report for further investigation. Incident reports carry no fee and are appropriate for communicating issues that would require warnings but not necessarily lead to disqualification. If a team feels an incident has progressed to the point of needing protest they should move to that level of official reporting.
51. Any participant has the right to enter a protest against another participant. A protest form will be available from the Tournament Director (TD) and must be completed and presented to the TD within 1 hour of the weigh in.
52. \$150.00 protest fee must accompany the form. The fee will be returned if the protest is found to be valid.
53. An infraction witnessed by a competitor can be reported to the Tournament Protest and Appeal Committee at the weigh-in site. In the event that an infraction is reported or a protest is entered, a three-person Protest Committee, appointed prior to the Tournament, shall convene.
54. Where a team is charged with a rule infraction by an authorized Tournament Official which could result in disqualification of the daily catch or tournament disqualification, the team has the right to appeal the decision to the Tournament Protest and Appeals Committee. Appeals must be submitted to Tournament Director within 10 minutes after notice of the rule's infraction.
55. Witness (es) may be called to appear before the Protest Committee to provide evidence relating to the alleged rule infraction.
56. The Protest and Appeals Committee will interpret the rules according to their spirit and intent. The decision of the Protest Committee is final and not subject to review of any kind. An official letter from the Appeal Committee will be sent to the team explaining the rule infraction. 4
57. "SPIRIT OF THE RULE" All rules have "loopholes". It is the intention of the LWM & NOWT to provide an honest, sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgement cases.
58. General Penalties: Teams may be disqualified from the tournament for frequent or major infractions of the rules and will not receive a refund of their entry fee. Examples of major infractions include unsafe boating practices, gross angling ethics violations and violations that clearly give the competitor an unfair or illegal advantage over other competitors, such as; movement of fish, fishing out of bounds, caged fish, violation of provincial and federal fishing and boating regulations, exchanging fish between teams and unauthorized use of underwater cameras, drug and alcohol violations, harassment, verbal or physical intimidation.

59. The official announcement of the results will take place at the host communities designated area.

60. **Protest your team's total weight: Saturday before 8pm & Sunday before 6pm**

Safety

61. The Tournament Directors have the right to delay or shorten the Tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations or due to reasons deemed necessary.

62. All competitors must practice safe boating at all times during practice and tournament fishing.

63. Your tether kill switch strap must be worn on plane.

64. For liability purposes, boat owners should have boat insurance.

65. **ALL TEAMS, whether weighing fish in or not, must check in with a tournament official at the Lakeside Center at the end of the day.**

66. Every competitor must wear a fully secured Coast Guard approved life jacket or chest type floating device on plane. If caught without by an official, you will be disqualified.

67. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by competitors during the tournament fishing hours. In case of intoxication, the Officials have the right to test and refuse the team to go until they are safe to leave. **NO DRINKING & DRIVING!**

68. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, or severe weather, teams may pull onto the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing.

69. Competitors may not leave their boats during the tournament except at the Official weigh-in site or if severe weather forces them ashore. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

70. Only tournament official boats are allowed to tow a competitor's boat during fishing hours if the team wishes to weigh in their catch. However, those boats requiring to be towed by tournament officials are still required to check their catch prior to end of day fishing time. **The tournament official is not responsible to get the towed boat back in time.**

71. A team that has a mechanical problem may use a different boat to finish the day's fishing. The switch must be made at the weight in station and has to have an official with them

72. Teams must notify a tournament official if an emergency or breakdown has occurred by calling or sending a text message to **Alan Ouellet 807-853-1730 / Crystel Vallee 705-363-7024**

Tackle and Equipment

73. Live bait and artificial lures, manufactured baits, pork rind and commercially available liquid attractants may be used.

74. Landing nets may be used.

75. No fishing information may be given to participants during tournament fishing hours by anyone in any fashion.

76. The use, in live wells, of commercially available fish care chemicals is permitted.

77. The **use of the underwater cameras or any similar device is prohibited** during fishing hours and cannot be present in the boat during tournament fishing hours.

Tie Breakers

78. The winner of a tie for the grand prize will be determined by the team with the heaviest weight day 1.

Tournament Cancellation

79. There is a \$20 processing fee for those teams which withdraw from the event.

80. There is no refund for teams who withdraw with less than one week notice prior to the event.

Registration and Draws - New for 2020

Registration Ticket Purchase

a. **Registration for the 2021 tournament will go on sale Friday July 24, 2020 at 5pm.** The cost is **\$335.00 (\$325.00 + \$10 NOWT fee) CAD.**

b. All entries paid in full by Monday July 27, 2020 at 4 pm will go into one of two draws (Main Starting Draw or Supplemental Draw).

c. **If a 2020 registered team for some reason can't fish the event, their registration can be rolled over to 2021, but it will not guarantee them a spot in the 2021 LWM, they may need to take part of the supplementary draw.**

Supplemental Draw Eligibility - The below procedure will be followed if by Monday July 27th there is more than 100 teams registered

a. All those teams who finished outside the top 80 in the 2020 LWM final standings.

b. All those teams which wish to register for the 2021 tournament but did not participate in the 2020 event.

c. Any individual of a team who wishes to enter as a new team while his 2020 partner fishes separately and retained the Main Starting Draw spot.

d. All those teams above must register and pay in full by Monday July 27, 2020 at 4pm eastern to be eligible for the Supplemental Draw.

Supplemental Draw

- a. All teams which meet the eligibility for the Supplemental Draw from above will be randomly selected.
- b. All teams will be recorded in order they are drawn with the first team drawn designated number one, second number two and so on until all supplemental teams have a designated number.
- c. Approximately the top 20 teams drawn in the Supplemental Draw will be eligible for the Main Starting Draw. This number can vary depending on the number of teams that qualify for the Main Starting Draw due to registrations and ties.
- d. Those teams which do not make the Main Starting Draw will be placed on the waiting list in the order they were drawn in the supplemental draw.
- e. A 5 team **paid waiting list** will be held by the tournament
- f. Those teams which are not successful in qualifying for the Main Starting Draw and paid waiting list will receive their full payment back.

Main Starting Draw Eligibility

- a. All those teams which finish in the top 80 of the 2020 LWM will automatically have an opportunity to enter the Main Starting Draw for the 2020 tournament (only one spot per team). They must however register and pay prior to Monday July 27, 2020 at 4pm eastern time to retain this privilege.
- b. The remaining spots to make up the 100-boat field in the Main Starting Draw will be determined in the Supplemental Draw.
- c. Teams will be drawn one at a time with the first team drawn being Team 1, the second Team 2 and so on until the 100-boat field is filled.
- d. If the 100-boat field is not filled by the above method the remainder of the starting order will be determined by ticket purchase date/time.
- e. If two individuals enter the tournament draw separately, and then later decide to amalgamate and become one Team, the newly created single Team will receive the LOWER of the two spots initially held by each individual.
- f. Any starting positions guaranteed due to the tournament registration are only guaranteed to those individuals whose names were on the original registration form submitted. Therefore at least one of the original names on the original registration form submitted must remain on the team for it to retain its starting position. If no angler from the original registration form submitted remains on the team, the team's starting position will be moved to the bottom of the starting order or to the bottom of the waiting lists, if the tournament field is full.

DRAW DATE: To be announced

TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY POLICY & SAFETY:

Participants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with tournament officials. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a contestant could be grounds for disqualification or rejection of entry application. Every participant is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field in order to maintain the highest integrity to the competition. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported to tournament officials on an **Incident Report** for further investigation. Incident reports carry no fee and are appropriate for communicating issues that would require warnings but not necessarily lead to disqualification. If a team feels an incident has progressed to the point of needing protest they should move to that level of official reporting

LWM tournaments, it's promoters, employees, sponsors, organizers, hosts, Directors, Officers and affiliated organizations assisting the operations of any of the Tournament, their agents and/or agents and assigns are not responsible for any death, injury, damage, liability, fire, theft or loss that may result prior to, during or after the Tournament howsoever caused.

Levels of DQ**Level 1** (DQ for 1 day – any fish in possession will not be weighed)

- not in the designated finishing area on time at the end of the fishing day (The team's weight for the day of the infraction is disqualified)
- did not complete morning inspection
- showing up at the weigh in station possessing more than 6 Walleyes
- Caught (by an official) not wearing a fully secured Coast Guard approved life jacket or chest type floating device on plane
- Proceeding to shore without Official present
- fishing out of bounds

Level 2 (DQ of the tournament)

- Un-sportsmanship behavior
- Sharing information using cell phones or radios with other anglers during fishing hours of the tournament
- Drug and alcohol violations (ex. Caught drinking in your boat)
- unauthorized use of underwater cameras
- unsafe boating practices (violation of provincial and federal fishing and boating regulations)
- violations that clearly give the competitor an unfair or illegal advantage over other competitors
- Comes to weigh-in station with more than two (2) walleyes greater than 46 cm in length.
- Comes to weigh-in station with more than 8 walleyes.
- Fishing after posted tournament hours between Friday and Sunday

Suspension & punishment (discussed with the LWM Board level)

- Cheating
- Fish was purposely altered. Any fish mauled, stringed, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gill or soft flesh that causes suspicious that it is being fraudulently entered into the Tournament
- caged fish
- exchanging fish between teams
- gross angling ethics violations
- Harassment, intimidation

