



2008 MWT Rules and Regulations

These rules will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director. The tournament director will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule. Failure to comply with any rule may result in disqualification. The decision of the tournament director shall be final in all matters.

AGE LIMITS Any person 16 years or under must be a team partner with a parent or legal guardian only. Persons under the age of 18 must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form.

ENTRY FEES are \$255 cash/check/money order/credit card per two person team per tournament, payable to *Minnesota Walleye Trail*. Qualifier entry fees are divided as follows - \$200 goes to the individual event, \$40 goes to the Championship fund, \$10 goes to the Team of the Year fund + \$5 for DNR permit fee. Tournament entry fees are paid back at 80%. Credit card payments will be assessed a \$7.50 surcharge.

MWT MEMBERSHIP All participants must be members of the *Minnesota Walleye Trail*. Annual memberships cost \$10 and include a *MWT* membership card, decal, tournament results newsletters, and merchandise discounts.

GUARANTEEING ENTRY Entry position can be guaranteed by sending a \$275 (\$250 entry fee + \$20 in memberships + \$5 DNR permit fee) cash/check/money order/credit card deposit by April 20th. If the team enters all four qualifiers, the deposit becomes their entry fee for the last qualifier. If a touring team fails to fish any Qualifier, they forfeit the deposit. Entry fees for the first 3 events must be postmarked no later than 8 days prior to each event or be subject to a \$25 late fee. Beginning April 23rd, entries for individual tournaments will be used to fill any remaining openings. For individual tournament entry forms, priority will be given to the earliest postmark date. In the event of a tie, field will be filled by a drawing.

LATE FEE All entries not postmarked at least 8 days prior to the scheduled tournament will be subject to a late fee of \$25. Contestants subject to a late fee will not be allowed to participate until late fee is paid.

REFUNDS Entry fee refunds will be made only if proper notification is made to the tournament director two weeks preceding the tournament. In all cases, a \$75 assessment will be made for cancellations. Refund checks will be made payable to both partners.

FIELD LIMITS All qualifying events will be limited to 75 teams. The top 30 teams (after 4 qualifiers) based on the *MWT* points system will be invited to the *MWT* Championship. The 2007 Champions and Team of the Year will receive an automatic invite into the 2008 *MWT* Championship provided they do not make the top 30 teams list.

POINTS SYSTEM Teams must enter all four qualifiers to be eligible to qualify for the *MWT* State Championship. Points will be awarded for place of finish in qualifying events. The winner will receive one point, second place will receive two points, and so on. Teams not catching fish will all receive the points for their place of finish plus an additional 10 points. “Team of the Year” and *MWT* State Championship field will be determined by lowest number of points. The 30 teams with the fewest points will qualify for the Championship. Should one team not be able to make the *MWT* Championship, the next place team will be invited, etc

PARTNER SUBSTITUTION If a substitute is used more than once, it must be the same person. Either partner may fish a tournament alone if his/her partner is unable to make the tournament, but they will only be allowed to weigh one legal limit of fish, or one tournament limit, whichever is less. No substitute may fish with more than one team. Any other combination will constitute a new team. Partner substitutions must be approved by the director. The director can make hardship exceptions (death, serious illness, etc.) to the substitution rule. Only team members are allowed in the boat during tournament hours. At least one original team member must fish each tournament.

BAG LIMITS Teams will be allowed to weigh a maximum of six fish - walleyes, saugers, saugeyes - per team. Minimum length 15” unless otherwise specified. Walleyes will be measured with mouth closed and tail squeezed. A one pound penalty will be assessed for each short fish in addition to the loss of that fish. If any contestant brings one more than the specified tournament daily limit to the scale, the largest fish in the bag will be thrown out. Once a limit of fish has been reduced to possession, no culling or live well sorting is permitted. Fish released must be capable of holding themselves upright in the water.

RULES MEETINGS will be held at 7:00 p.m. the evening prior to the event. Locations will be announced in the *MWT* newsletter prior to each event.

SPORTSMANSHIP All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. All contestants must abide by all Minnesota fishing regulations. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be possessed or consumed by the contestants during tournament hours.

DISQUALIFICATION Failure to comply with any rule may result in disqualification. Disqualification from the tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee.

TOURNAMENT HOURS at each event are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Boats must return to weigh-in site by 3:00 p.m.

MANDATORY CHECK-IN All teams must check-in with the tournament director prior to the tournament between 5:00 a.m. and 6:45 a.m.. Teams can come by boat or by land. Boats will be thoroughly inspected by tournament officials during the check-in period. Failure to check-in in person will result in immediate disqualification.

EASE OFF Teams will ease off at the first Qualifier in the order in which their paid entry fee for that event was received. Subsequent Qualifier take off position will be determined by previous tournament’s finish position.

WEIGH-IN, CHECK-IN Teams must come to weigh-in by water. Weigh-ins will be at 3:00 p.m.. Only one location will be designated as the official weigh-in location. All contestants

must check-in with official timekeeper by 3:00 p.m.. Boats must pass between, or be in line to pass between, at no wake speed, official timekeeper boat and buoy by 3:00 p.m.. Teams one to five minutes late will forfeit half their weight. Teams over five minutes late will be disqualified. All boat boards must be returned to the pre-stage bump tank.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE All contestants must be off the water by 5:00 p.m. the day before the tournament. Fishing is allowed only during tournament hours thereafter.

TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES will be announced prior to each event in the official *MWT* newsletter and also outlined at the rules meeting.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT Live bait and artificial lures may be used. All fish must be caught live and in a legal manner. Contestants must possess applicable state fishing licenses. Cellular phones and CB or marine band radios are allowed for emergency use only. Any transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during the tournament. Magnifying sight devices such as binoculars or spotting scopes are not allowed in the boat during tournament hours.

OFFICIAL RULE will be “The Judge Tournament Rule”

BOAT AND MOTOR All boats entered in the tournament must carry a \$100,000 liability policy. Each boat must have all U.S. Coast Guard required safety equipment. Main combustion engine may not exceed USCG recommended horsepower. Each boat must also have a properly aerated or recirculating livewell space to maintain at least six healthy walleyes.

BOAT INSPECTION All teams are subject to inspection during the tournament; patrol boats may come alongside and conduct inspections at any time. No other boats may come in contact with contestant’s boats. No fishing information may be given to contestants during tournament hours by tournament or non-tournament anglers. Tournament staff can place an observer in any boat at any time.

EXOTIC SPECIES AND AQUATIC VEGETATION *MWT* will require inspections of all watercraft and trailers when entering or leaving tournament waters. Inspections will include a thorough search, inside and out, for the presence of any aquatic plants and all other exotics, including zebra mussels. No boat shall be launched when entering tournament waters until all exotic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited exotic species have been removed and properly disposed of, and until all live wells and bilges have been drained and boats have been made free of any exotic species. Similar inspections must be made when leaving tournament waters.

SAFETY Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device at take off. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations. In an emergency, partners may enter another competitor’s or rescue boat. In the case of an emergency/disabled boat, at least one partner may return (by boat) with their catch by the official check-in time.

SEVERE WEATHER *MWT* Tournament Officials may delay the start of said tournament up to 11:00 a.m. because of severe weather. If safe fishing conditions do not return by an 11:00 a.m. start time said tournament will be canceled and entry fees refunded. In the event that lightning is visible, contestants must immediately cease fishing and move away from the lightning towards a safe harbor or shore. When the lightning is no longer visible, contestants

may return to their fishing locations. Contestants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except at the official weigh-in station, in an emergency, or if severe weather forces them ashore.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS Contestants may fish anywhere on the tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated OFF LIMITS or within 50 feet of any other boat. Contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of emergencies.

TIES In the case of a tie, positions shall be resolved by combining the awards and dividing them equally among the tied contestants. Trophy positions shall be determined by the flip of a coin. Duplicate points will be awarded the tied competitors. Year-end ties in points will be broken by total weight for the year. Should no fish be caught, prizes and money will be given away by random drawing.

PROTESTS Protests must be made to the tournament director in writing within 30 minutes from the start of the weigh-in.

POLYGRAPH OR VOICE TESTS Any winning team member may be required to submit to and pass a polygraph test at *MWT*'s request. Failure to take or pass the polygraph or voice examination will result in immediate disqualification from this event and all future *MWT* events without recourse in addition to forfeiting all deposits.

PAYBACK* Payback will be according to set payout schedule if at least 15 teams register fish. If less than 15, but more than 10 teams register fish, payback will be split accordingly. If 10 teams or less register fish, payout will remain as set, with remaining funds distributed via a random drawing of non-placing teams. (* based on full field)