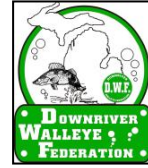


2026 Downriver Walleye Federation Tournament Rules & Regulations



The final decision on all rules will be the responsibility of the D.W.F. Tournament Director, Tournament Committee Member(s) and/or Tournament Captain(s)

Note: D.W.F. means Downriver Walleye Federation

1. Eligible Entrants -Vessel Captains **MUST** be a current D.W.F. member. The Maximum number of Team/Crew is the maximum number of passengers your vessel is the approved to carry by the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard, DNRE/MNR rules/regulations for your vessel. Vessel Captains are responsible for the conduct and safety of his Team/Crew & Vessel.
2. Tournament Entry Fees - \$30.00. All Entry fees include \$5.00 per Angler for Big Fish Purse. No entry fee will be charged for children 16 years and under.
3. Tournament entry Forms must be in by 5:00 P.M. on the Thursday before the scheduled tournament. You can enter online with credit card at <https://dwfonline.org>, or paper entry forms may be picked up and paid for in CASH ONLY at DWF meetings or at The Bait & Tackle Box - 4088 West Jefferson - Trenton (734) 301-3281.
4. Tournament Cancellation & Postponement - Tournaments cancelled due to unsafe weather conditions on Saturday will be reschedule for the following day, Sunday. Refunds will be made to those that are not able to fish the tournament re-scheduled for Sunday. If the tournament can not be held on Sunday, an alternate weekend will be chosen and refunds will be made available. The D.W.F. Tournament Director, Tournament Committee Member(s) and/or Tournament Captain(s) will determine if the weather is not safe or suitable to hold the tournament. Consideration will be given to small craft advisories for the area. Vessel Captains will be notified of cancellation or postponement by phone as early as Friday night and as late as the morning of the tournament including up to 3 hours into the tournament. More than three (3) hours will be required to constitute a tournament.
5. Attendance Call (Safety) - Vessel Captains entered into the tournament must immediately call by cell phone if they are not able to fish because of an emergency prior to or during the tournament. If during the tournament an emergency arises you should call via your Marine Radio (channel 68) or cell phone. If your emergency is of a serious life threatening nature, immediately call Channel 16 for Coast Guard assistance. Tournament anglers must call by cell phone the Tournament Director or Tournament Captain if they do not weigh in. This is a safety & courtesy requirement.
6. Launch Site - Tournament participants can launch at any site.
7. Fishing waters for tournament as listed on entry form. Fishing Boundaries Detroit River only Tournaments - From the North point of Peche Island (~N42°20.958 ~W82°55.476) to South point of Celeron Island (~N42°04.409 ~W83°10.204) (See Map). Tournaments on Lake Erie Michigan, Ohio & Canadian waters from Colchester Harbor (~N 41°58.931 W82°55.9086) on a SW heading running along on the East side of West Sister Island along the Lucas Co., OH/Ottawa Co., Oh County Parish, Boundaries to Toussaint River, OH at (~N41°35.239 W83°03.687) (See map).
8. Six (6) Rod Rule - While fishing D.W.F. Tournaments in Lake Erie Michigan waters, each boat with 2 (two) or more anglers may only fish with a maximum of six (6) rods. Boats with one (1) angler may fish with a maximum of three (3) rods. You may only use one (1) bait/lure per rod when trolling. No sliders allowed.
9. Fishing Times - Fishing Time will be from Sunrise to 1:00 P.M.
10. Weigh-In Time - The designated weigh-in time deadline is 1:30 P.M. You **MUST** be in line at weigh-in scale no later than 1:30 P.M. or your Team/Crew will be disqualified. Early weigh-ins will start no earlier than 1:00 P.M.
11. Weigh-In Location - The designated weigh-in location will be on the D.W.F. Entry Form, D.W.F. Tournament Flyer & D.W.F. Website.

12. Fish Qualification - Each Team/Crew may weigh up to (5) Walleye.
Once Walleye is in the basket on the official scale they cannot be exchanged/replaced. Any Walleye less than 15 inches in length will be eliminated from the total amount weighed, including Big fish if applicable.
The winners of Prize/Purse places will be determined by total weight brought to the scale. In the event of a tie in weight for total Walleye, the length of the biggest Walleye shall determine the winner. If length is equal, the two (2) tied positions will divide those purse places equally. Note: Walleye includes Walleye/Sauger/Saugeye.
13. Biggest Walleye - Each Team/Boat will weigh their largest one (1) Walleye and winner(s) will be determined by weight. In the event of a tie in weight for the Biggest Walleye, length of the biggest fish shall determine the winner. If length is equal, the two (2) tied positions will divide those purse place(s) equally. The Biggest Walleye Prize/Purse will be \$5.00 per angler which is included in the applicable entry fee.
14. Prize/Purse Pay Out - Thirty percent (30%) of the total entry fees will be retained by D.W.F. with the balance distributed for prizes/purses as follows:
As an Example:
14 Boats or less 1st place will pay ~60% & 2nd place will pay ~40%
15 Boats or more 1st place will pay ~50%; 2nd place will pay ~30% & 3rd place will pay ~20%
Example: 20 Teams/Boats with 60 anglers = \$1,200 Total Purse. 20% of Purse to DWF = \$240.
1st Place will pay ~50% = \$330
2nd Place will pay ~30% = \$198
3rd Place will pay ~20% = \$132
Big Fish 60 x \$5 = \$300
Pay out will be immediately after the winners have been determined at weigh-in.
15. Alcohol use during tournament activities will be regulated per state and local laws, and per private business regulations. The D.W.F. is NOT responsible for the actions of any persons that participated in the tournament, and reserves the right to disqualify participants for unruly behavior.
16. All protests must be filed with the Tournament Director by close of scales. A protest fee of \$50.00 will be required for a protest to be considered. If the protest is upheld, then the money will be given back to the protester. If the protest is not upheld, the money will be awarded to the contestant or team being implicated.
17. All questions, judgments or problems during a tournament will be referred to the D.W.F. Tournament Director, Tournament Committee Member(s) and/or Tournament Captain(s). Together or in part, they have sole authority and jurisdiction in determining the application of the D.W.F. Tournament Rules & Regulations and subsequent penalties. Contestant(s) may be disqualified and required to forfeit all tournament entry fees, Big Fish fees, or any winnings for that tournament. Contestant(s) may be refused entry to future D.W.F. tournaments.