

# Melfort Wildlife Federation

## Angler Young Anglers Walleye Challenge Rules:

### **RULES:**

#### **1. Eligibility**

A) One (1) adult and one or two youths, age 17 and under.

#### **2. Requirements**

A) Each contestant must have in his or her possession a valid Saskatchewan fishing license.

B) Promoters and organizers assisting in tournament operation, their agencies and agents are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire or any loss to any entrants. Each entrant, upon signing an accepted entry form, will in effect be signing a waiver.

C) Each entrant will be required to have, and are encouraged to wear, a Canadian or US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD).

D) All contestants are required to observe Canadian rules and regulations concerning safe boating.

#### **3. Fishing**

A) Only walleye, sauger & saugeye will be included in official totals.

B) Only those fish caught on hook and line in the usual manner will be accepted.

C) Each fisherman will be allowed one (1) line in the water at a time. Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat.

D) Live bait and artificial bait and lures are allowed as Sask. angling regulations allow. Electronic and electrical luring or attractive devices are prohibited. No live minnows.

E) There will be no minimum length in the tournament. Any walleye mangled, mashed or mauled will be weighed or credited at the discretion of the weigh in officials.

F) Entrants will conduct themselves as true sportsmen and gentlemen when fishing near another boat. There is no restricted area around another boat. However, no boat may touch another boat. No interference with another anglers line will be allowed.

G) A contestant **MUST NOT** leave the boat to land a fish or to untangle lines or lures.

H) Special note: The tournament daily limit shall be four (4) fish per team. Two (2) fish 55 cm or over, or as provincial regulations allow. All measurements will be made with pinched tail.

Teams will be allowed to exchange fish from live well with a more suitable size caught. No more than four (4) fish may be in live well at any time (i.e. Five (5) fish found in live well by judges will mean immediate disqualification).

You may partial weigh at any time. Previously weighed fish are counted in with live well total.

Any team found releasing a non-releasable fish and not retrieving it will

be disqualified. Boat officials' decisions are final, no protest will be accepted.

I) All contestants are required to keep fish alive by means of an aerated livewell. All fish will be released alive after weigh-in.

Any fish not able to be live-released will result in a penalty of 1 pound per dead fish.

\*NOTE\* All fish will be judged in the livewell at the weigh-in docks with all weights removed. Any fish on its side or belly-up (Breathing or not) will be counted as non-releasable and docked one (1) pound.

#### **4. Boats and equipment**

A) All boats will be required to meet Canadian safety regulations.

B) All boats will be required to carry a provincial or state registration in accordance with the regulations of the home province or state of contestant owning the boat.

C) Electronic and electrical depth finders, thermometers, oxygen meters, etc. are allowed.

D) No binoculars, or communication devices will be allowed on the boats.

#### **5. Weigh-in**

A) The scale for weigh-ins will be open throughout the fishing day.

B) Each team will be responsible for their own catch. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY ANYONE OTHER THAN WEIGH-IN OFFICIALS HANDLE OR TOUCH THE FISH AFTER IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE WEIGH-IN OFFICIAL.

C) A team member will bring the fish to the scale. Each team will receive a copy of their scale ticket each time their team weighs in fish. The scale tickets are initialed by one of the team members.

D) An unloading area will be designated immediately in front of the weigh-in area and will be for unloading of fish only.

#### **6. Fishing hours and starting**

A) The fishing day will begin Saturday at 9:00 am with a trickle start. Six (6) hours of fishing.

B) Contestants who return late will be penalized five (5) percent of their total weight for each minute they are late, and will be disqualified for any large walleye prize that day. After five (5) minutes late, the team is disqualified for that day losing their daily total weight.

C) Tournament boats late due to mechanical failure or run out of gas: rule 6 (B) will be enforced.

#### **7. Boat identification and patrolling**

A) All contestants' boats will be identified with a coloured, numbered decal. Team numbers will be assigned in ascending order as entries are received. Your team number decal SHALL AND MUST be placed on the driver's side of the boat in a clearly visible location.

B) If an emergency exists, patrol boats will be clearly marked for easy identification. All boats will be allowed to land at weigh-in station only (unless accompanied by a patrol boat.) Should it be necessary to land your boat without a patrol boat present, the team must return to the weigh-in dock with livewells empty, and be reinspected before starting

to fish. If any fish are found in the livewell, they will be counted in with the daily fish total but will receive a zero weight.

C) Boats will be inspected before and may be inspected during the tournament. Tournament officials will be checking boats at the launch area and patrol boats will be intensely patrolling the fishing areas. Any cheating will result in immediate disqualification.

D) Outer boundaries will be clearly marked. It is the responsibility of the contestants to know and remain within the tournament boundaries, “fishing or not”. Contestants in violation will lose their days weight.

### **8. Lake opening**

A) Competitors will be allowed to pre-fish the lake as much as they wish until 4:00 pm Friday. After this time fishing is allowed only during tournament hours until the end of the tournament.

### **9. Prizes**

A) Prizes will be based on most weight (pounds) during the tournament.

B) Prizes will be awarded on a team basis.

C) In case of a tie, both teams will split the total prize money in the two (2) positions.

D) Prizes will be awarded on the final day, but are subject to final checks by the tournament committee.

E) Contingency prizes may be awarded by contributors, supporters, or other interested parties.

F) Rules for any contingency prizes may be stipulated by those offering the prizes.

### **10. Spirit of the rule**

A) All rules have “loopholes”. It is the intention of the sponsor to provide an honest, sportsman like tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that “spirit of the rule” will prevail in all cases.

### **11. Protests**

A) Any contestant has the right to make a protest against another contestant. A protest form will be available from the tournament chairman and MUST be filled out and presented to the chairman within one hour of the close of the fishing day.

B) A special protest committee will convene for the purpose of determining action. Both parties and possible witnesses may be called before the committee. The committee will convene within three (3) hours of any protest being formally presented.

C) A \$200.00 protest fee will be required to accompany any formal protest. The fee is to be returned if the protest is found to be valid by the protest committee. If the protest is found to be invalid, the fee will not be returned.

D) The decision of the protest committee is final in all cases.

### **12. Miscellaneous**

A) All questions or problems regarding the rules of the tournament are

to be referred to the tournament committee. Their decision will be final in all cases. No other person can be considered a spokesman for the rules during the tournament.

B) If one of the three (3) team members drops out before the tournament, he or she may be replaced by the choice of the remaining team members. The chairman must be notified of the change before the tournament.

C) If the entire team drops out before the tournament, the place will be filled by the tournament chairman and not by the choice of the team that drops out. The entry fee will be returned only if notice is given 7 days prior to the start of the tournament.

**Cash purse based on 75% payout of entries. In such case as the tournament is not full, the purse will be adjusted accordingly.**