

2024 Leech Lake Walleye Tournament Rules

CPR – Catch Photo Release

Anglers will report the measurement, and the app will apply a weight conversion.

Winners will be determined by weight.

Fishing will take place each day between the hours of 7:00am – 3:00 pm

FISHDONKEY APP

All registration must be completed using the FishDonkey link on the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament (LLWT) website. All registrations will be paid with a credit card directly on FishDonkey. The FishDonkey app will be used to photo document fish and will generate live leaderboards. The leaderboards will update through the event as fish are submitted. All entries will be considered unofficial until verified.

It is your responsibility to train on and test the App before the tournament.

PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY

The Leech Lake Walleye Tournament is a team tournament. Contestants must enter as two-person teams (no "Partner TBD" or unknown partner names on the registration) and must fish together from the same boat.

Fishing alone is discouraged. If a situation arises where only one member of the team can participate, proper notification must be made to the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament directors as soon as possible. Upon approval, the director may provide an observer.

All registrations for 2024 will be processed through the 2024 LLWT Tournament registration portal at <https://www.leechlakewalleyetournament.com/> (No refunds after May 17, 2024). Registration will be done in 3 phases and will include the Participation Agreement releasing, Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and Leech Lake Walleye Tournament's officers, agents, employees, and sponsors from all damages must be signed and dated by both team members.

Any person 17 years of age or younger must be teamed with a parent or guardian. No persons under age 12 may participate as contestants. A team must consist of one contestant 17 years of age or younger to be eligible for the Adult/Youth division prizes.

The Leech Lake Walleye Tournament reserves the right to refuse entry to any individuals who have been barred or disqualified from any tournament for rules violations.

ENTRY

Phase 1: Registration begins on January 1, 2024, for returning intact teams from 2023 (same two people as last year). Intact 2023 teams receive priority to enter the 2024 Leech Lake Walleye Tournament on a first come first served basis. To receive priority for participation in this year's tournament, your completed Tournament Entry along with the Entry Fee of \$450.00 per team must be received on the tournament website by January 15, 2024.

Phase 2: Open for a returning 2023 registered angler with a new partner. Registration for Phase 2 will open Jan 16, 2024, and must be completed by January 31. These openings will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Phase 3: Any team openings remaining on or after February 1, 2024, will be opened to the public on a first-come-first-served basis. During Phase 3, a waiting list will be established for any teams over 155.

MEASURING AND PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

- All photos must be taken through the FishDonkey app and measurements must be on a “Judge” measuring board. “Judge” measuring boards will be inspected on both mornings prior to tournament launch. Measuring board length markings must be clearly legible. No alterations or enhanced lines will be allowed.
- Fish should be recorded immediately, and measurements noted by length.
- All submissions must include **ONLY** two photographs and 1 video: 1) Measurement Shot - pic of fish on measuring board 2) Hero Shot - A pic of you holding the fish. 3) A release video of the fish going back into the water.

1st photo Measurement Shot

Place the fish on the “Judge” measuring board with the left side up, the belly of the fish down (facing the team member) when measuring the fish.

You may not insert anything inside the gill plate of the fish while measuring.

Tail must be pinched, the tail centrally located on the “Judge” measuring board.

Absolutely **NO** hands, fingers, or props are allowed under the fish to alter fish length.

The team agrees on the length of the fish to ¼ inch accuracy. If the tail fin touches or crosses a graduation line on the “Judge” measuring board the official length of the fish for scoring purposes must be lengthened to the next one quarter of an inch line of the “Judge” measuring board.

Example: 19 ¾” Fish will count as a 20” Legal “under” fish.

Example: 20” fish will count as a 20 ¼” Legal “over” fish. It will be considered one of your “overs”.

The minimum size for walleyes is 14 inches. Legal fish must be at least 14”.

Example: A 13 ¾” is not a legal fish – will not be rounded up.

While the fish is being held on the “Judge” measuring board, take the scoring photo which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The head and tail of the fish must be included and be clearly visible. The photograph must be taken of the left side of the fish only. A photo that does not distinctly show the overall length of the fish including head and tail with the left side of the fish on the “Judge” measuring board will not be scored. **Be sure you have a clear photo including all requirements, failure to submit a scoring shot will result in that fish being denied.**

2nd photo – Hero Shot

Photo must be taken of the fish being held up by one team member. These photos will be used for technical evaluation and may be used on stage during the awards ceremony or posted to media outlets.

Failure to submit a Hero Shot will result in the fish being denied.

3rd Release Video

The video must show the live release of the fish back into the water.

Failure to submit a release video, or a careless release will result in the fish being denied.

Reference the videos on the LLWT website on correct pictures and videos.

Failure to submit 2 photos and 1 video will result in fish denial.

PRACTICE THE FISHDONKEY APP AHEAD OF TIME

[Watch a 1 minute video on "How to Enter a Fish"](#)

Test the app before you get out on the water.

1. Download the app (if you haven't yet)
2. Tap: FISH IN A TOURNAMENT
3. Search and Join: Practice Entering a Fish

Video: [How to Join the Practice Tournament](#)

It is the sole responsibility of each participant to be proficient in the use of the app.

FishDonkey in poor reception areas.

Prepare in advance, just in case.

The app will work without internet reception.

Do this: Tap on the name of the tournament on the FD home screen. Your event is now fully loaded, and you are ready.

When you return to good reception:

*Your Digital Livewell® (fish icon) will show you if there are fish waiting to get pushed into the leaderboard.

*Open your Digital Livewell® and leave that screen open/active until all fish are "Received". If your pictures are not showing the leaderboard, this is what you need to do.

* If you tap RESUBMIT, you only need to tap it once. Keep the screen "awake" by tapping in a blank area on the screen to keep it processing.

Every angler is responsible for checking their Digital Livewell® at the end of the day to make sure that all of their fish submissions have been identified as "RECEIVED". Tap on the Digital Livewell® (fish icon). You will need a minimum of 2 bars of service or strong Wi-Fi. If any entries have a message that reads NOT RECEIVED, leave that screen open until all fish read RECEIVED to the leaderboard. If you cannot get your entry to say RECEIVED, try this: <https://tinyurl.com/DigitalLivewell>

MEASURING BOARDS

All teams will be required to use the official "Judge" measuring board. Teams will use the "JUDGE" and supply their own board.

"Judge" measuring boards will be inspected on both mornings prior to tournament launch. "Judge" measuring board length markings must be clearly legible. No alterations or enhanced lines will be allowed.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Your tournament Directors are Gregg Parks and Paul Nordeen. If you need to reach your director, tap on the 'i' for INFO in the app and scroll down to Contact Info.

The interpretation and enforcement of the rules is at the sole discretion of the directors. The tournament directors may change rules or impose sanctions as they deem appropriate, including but not limited to disqualifications, forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from competing in future tournaments. All decisions made by the tournament directors are final.

All participants must be off the water by 3:00 P.M. the day before the tournament. Fishing is allowed only during tournament hours thereafter. From 3:00 P.M. The day before the tournament through the event's conclusion, direct travel to and from boat docks and/or docking facilities is the ONLY lake travel allowed.

Boat positioning will be determined by a witnessed random draw.

Attendance is mandatory by at least one team member at the Rules and Procedure Meeting on Thursday May 30, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Northern Lights Casino & Hotel.

Failure to register and check-in BEFORE the start of the rules meeting results in disqualification for the tournament.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Teams must check in each morning prior to the tournament starting. Check in may begin at 5:30 am.

Teams must remain within tournament boundaries during the tournament hours.

All team members must remain in their boats each day during tournament hours. In the case of an emergency, teams may leave their boat to enter another team's boat or rescue craft. In such a situation, partners must remain within sight of each other until they reach tournament headquarters.

Teams must abide by all local navigation laws and AVOID RESTRICTED AREAS AT ALL TIMES.

Tournament dates are Friday & Saturday, May 31st and June 1st, 2024.

Tournament waters include all navigable waters of Leech Lake east to Highway 8 and west excluding Benedict Lake. Fishing in Kabekona Lake and Steamboat Lake is prohibited.

Fishing hours begin at 7:00 A.M. with the boats departing in numerical order.

Boats will not be required to return to the docks at the end of fishing. The app will turn off at 3:00 each day to end fish entry.

The order of departure is reversed on the morning of Day 2.

EQUIPMENT AND TACKLE

Artificial and live bait are allowed.

Only one line per competitor is allowed.

Any cellular phone and radio communications (broadcasting and/or monitoring) during tournament hours, other than contact with tournament director, submitting Fish documentation, or in the case of emergency or for safety reasons is prohibited.

Any magnified viewing device used to observe competitors is not allowed. Competing Press members must obtain a permit to carry professional camera equipment.

The Leech Lake Walleye Tournament is a catch/photo/release tournament. Each contestant should do all they can to ensure the wellbeing of their catch.

Only Walleyes will be weighed.

The tournament will include 3 fish under 20 inches and 2 fish over 20 inches.

UNDERS

Each team will be allowed 3 fish under 20" Teams can CPR and upgrade these all day until you achieve the 3 biggest under 20". The minimum size for walleyes is 14 inches, Legal fish must be at least 14".

Example: A 13 ¾" is not a legal fish – will not be rounded up.

OVERS

Each team may CPR 2 fish over 20". You are ONLY allowed to submit 2 fish over 20".

If more than 2 are submitted the time stamp will be used to ZERO out any further fish entries over 20".

Only your first two (by timestamp) will count.

Example: Any fish touching the 20" line gets rounded up to a legal "over".

Extra-large fish that exceed the length of your "Judge" measuring board; use a commercial measuring tape and line it up with the 0" of your measuring board. Place the fish on top of the measuring tape/measuring board. Bump the nose of the fish against the 90-degree angle to mark the 0" start of your measurement. Photo or video document your fish from nose to tail, covering the complete length of the fish.

Any fish altered (before or after being caught) which enhances the weight or circumvents tournament slot limits will not be allowed and will be grounds for immediate team disqualification if so, determined by the tournament rules committee.

SCORING

Total accumulated weight in pounds is determined through the app by using length to weight conversion. Weight will determine the final standings, the big fish awards, and any additional awards.

If a tie occurs, the team with the heaviest weight on the second day of the tournament will determine the tiebreaker. The second determining factor in the case of tie will be determined by the largest fish on Day 2 of the tournament. If a third tie breaker is needed, any cash awards of the two finishers will be added together and divided equally to each team.

Cash awards and prizes are based on a full field of participants. The tournament committee reserves the right to adjust cash/prize values accordingly.

SAFETY

Each participant must always observe safe boat conduct.

Each participant is required to wear a Coast Guard Approved chest-type life preserver, which is fully secured whenever the main combustion engine is running above idling speed.

Instant engine stop switches must be operating and used properly when contestants are using the main engine above trolling speeds.

Main combustion engine horsepower may not exceed the Coast Guard B.I.A. or N.M.M.A. horsepower rating plate on the boat.

Boat registration numbers on all boats must be clear and identifiable.

All boats must carry a minimum of \$100,000 liability insurance.

Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those prescribed by a licensed physician; or purchased over the counter), during the tournament is prohibited. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from present and future events.

Tournament officials reserve the right to delay, cancel or restrict tournament waters in case of severe weather.

During the tournament, official weather announcements will be made through the app in which the tournament is happening. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning and/or severe weather, contestants may pull into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Contestants may not leave their boats during tournament hours unless severe weather forces them ashore.

Tournament officials reserve the right to disallow the use of any boat and/or motor they deem to be unsafe, inappropriate, or unsuitable for use. The Tournament Director's decision in this matter is final and may be made at any time.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants will be expected to always act in a sportsmanlike manner towards non-competitors and competitors alike. This shall include the areas of safety, conservation, and courtesy. Violators of this rule will be subject to disqualification.

Any unfavorable conduct or action by a competitor which could negatively reflect on the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament will be grounds for disqualification and/or future rejection of entry application.

During the tournament's fishing hours, contestants will not discuss techniques, tactics, or fishing spots with any other contestant; nor will they be allowed to receive fishing information from non-competitors. Non-competitors are not allowed to anchor or hold spots for contestants.

RULES AND INTERPRETATION

Contestants are responsible for knowing tournament rules as well as state and local rules and regulations, which pertain to the tournament waters. Any team violating state or local rules may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

All protests must be lodged with the Tournament Director in writing ½ hour of completion of daily weigh-in. (3:30 pm) Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. The Tournament Directors will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and their decision in all disputes is final. A \$100.00 fee must accompany the protest.

Tournament officials reserve the right to polygraph any contestant.

Failure to return the assigned boat number card may result in disqualification from the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament.

If rules infractions are brought to the Tournament Director's attention at any time, and investigation proves a violation occurred, a penalty of daily and/or tournament weight may be made. Also, cash prizes and awards must be returned if requested.

Cheating

- All protests must be brought to the director's attention before the end of the event.
- Anyone caught breaking the law or disobeying the rules will be disqualified.

- Fish must be hooked and caught live in a conventional manner. Fish cannot be snagged, netted, speared, etc.
- Alterations of fish tails is prohibited. (Clipping)
- **Fish cannot be put in live well at any time. This includes all game fish except bait. This will be immediate disqualification.**

If you see another angler doing what you believe is a rules violation, follow these steps if possible:

Take out your camera and take a picture or video of the offender.

Call the tournament director immediately.

Participants may be required to take polygraph exams as part of the tournament requirements. If deception is detected or the participant refuses to take the exam, the prize will be forfeited, and the participant will be disqualified. Anglers taking a polygraph examination may be responsible for all costs incurred.

Ensure that your correct address, email, and mobile number appear in your app profile for prize announcements and delivery. Find your app profile by tapping on the person icon in the top right corner in FishDonkey.

Prizes are the responsibility of the winners. Transportation, taxes, and incidentals are the responsibility of the winner.

It is the responsibility of the tournament director to disburse all prizes.

From our terms and conditions, you have agreed to the following:

"FishDonkey makes no representations or warranties regarding the Service, or the quality, features, conditions, rules, prizes, results, or other aspects of any tournament ORGANIZED THROUGH, OR hosted on, the Site. AS BETWEEN FISHDONKEY AND THE TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER, THE TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER IS SOLEY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESULTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE TOURNAMENTS THEY ORGANIZE AND HOST USING THE SITE AND SERVICES."