

## 2025 Leech Lake Walleye Tournament Rules

### CPR – Catch Photo Release

**Anglers will report length measurements, that the FD app will convert to weight.**

**Winners will be determined by weight.**

**Fishing will take place 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM on May 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

### FISHDONKEY APP

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

**It is your responsibility to train on and test the FD 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) who 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 sent to the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament directors as soon as possible. Upon approval, the director may provide an observer in that boat.

All registrations for 2025 will be processed through the 2025 LLWT Tournament registration portal at <https://www.leechlakewalleyetournament.com>; **no refunds** after May 17, 2025. Registration will be done in 3 phases and will include a Participation Agreement releasing Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Leech Lake Walleye Tournament's officers, agents, employees, and sponsors from all damages. This agreement 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/REGISTRATION

**Phase 1:** Registration begins on January 1, 2025, for returning intact teams from 2024 (same two people as last year). Intact 2024 teams receive priority to enter the 2025 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, 2025.

**Phase 2:** Open for a returning 2024 registered angler with a new partner. Registration for Phase 2 will open Jan 16, 2025, and must be completed by January 31. These entries 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 all-new teams 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. Measuring boards will be inspected on both mornings prior to tournament send-off. Measuring board length markings must be clearly legible. No alterations or enhanced lines will be allowed.
- Fish length should be recorded immediately after the fish is caught.
- All submissions must include **ONLY** two photographs and 1 video: 1) Measurement Shot - photo of fish on the measuring board. 2) Hero Shot - photo of you holding the fish. 3) Release Video of the fish going back into the water.

### 1<sup>st</sup> photo Measurement - Shot

- Place the fish on the “Judge” measuring board with the **left side** visible, the nose of the fish needs to be touching the 90 degree bump, the belly of the fish facing the team member holding the fish when measuring it.
- You may not insert anything inside the gill plate of the fish while measuring.
- The tail must be pinched and centrally located on the “Judge” measuring board.
- Absolutely **NO** hands, fingers, or props are allowed under the fish to alter its length.
- The team should agree 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 will be lengthened to the next one quarter of an inch line of the 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 and will not be rounded up.**
- While the fish is being held on the “Judge” measuring board, take the scoring photo which must clearly show the overall length of the fish. The head and tail of the fish must be included and be clearly visible. A photo that does not distinctly show the overall length of the fish including head and tail with the left side of the fish showing 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.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> photo – Hero Shot

A 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.**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

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

## **PRACTICE THE FISHDONKEY APP AHEAD OF TIME**

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

[Watch a 1 minute video "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 for and Join: "Practice Entering a Fish";

Once you see the practice tournament title appear on your FishDonkey home screen, tap on it.

Find the button to ENTER A FISH, get familiar with how the camera works and enter several practice fish.

**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>**

**FishDonkey Tech Support phone numbers can be found in the app by tapping on the profile icon in the top right corner -> Contact Us.**

## **MEASURING BOARDS**

**All teams will be required to use the official "Judge" measuring board and to 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 Director is Gregg Parks. 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 director 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 director are final.

## **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

All participants must be off the water by 3:00 PM the day before the tournament. Fishing is allowed only during tournament hours thereafter. From 3:00 PM 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 29, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Northern Lights Casino & Hotel. Registration check-in there will run from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Failure to register and check-in BEFORE THE START of the rules meeting will result in tournament disqualification.**

Teams must also check in each morning at the Walker Public Landing (WPL). Check in there will 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 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 AM with the boats departing in numerical order. The order of departure is reversed on the morning of day 2.

Boats will not be required to return to the WPL docks at the end of fishing. At 3:00 PM the app will no longer accept fish entries.

## **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 well-being of their catch.

**Only Walleyes should be weighed.**

## **UNDERS**

Each team will be allowed 3 fish under 20". Teams can CPR all "unders" caught and FD will automatically select and record the 3 biggest under 20". The minimum size for walleyes is 14 inches and none under 14" will be rounded up to 14.

## **OVERS**

**Each team may CPR 2 fish over 20". You are allowed to submit ONLY 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 time stamp) will count. And remember that any fish touching the 20" line gets rounded up to a legal "over".**

For 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 Judge's 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 alteration (before or after being caught) that enhances the weight or circumvents tournament slot limits will not be allowed and will be grounds for immediate team disqualification.

## **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 STRINGER of 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 between each team.

Cash awards and prizes are based on the size of the 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 that is fully secured whenever the main combustion engine is running above idling speed.

Instant engine stop switches must be operating and attached bodily 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 must be clearly visible on all boats.

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.

In the case of bad weather, tournament officials reserve the right to delay or cancel proceedings or restrict tournament locations.

During the tournament, official weather announcements will be texted 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 act in a sportsmanlike manner toward 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, local, or tournament rules may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

All protests must be lodged with the Tournament Director **in writing within ½ hour of completion of daily weigh-in (by 3:30 PM)**. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. The Tournament Director 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.

If rules infractions are brought to the Tournament Director 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.

Please return the assigned boat number card, this will be much appreciated by the staff.

### **CHEATING**

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

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

- Take a photo or video of the offender and/or the violation.
- 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, any 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 become 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."**