

# Kansas Walleye Association – 2024 Tournament Rules and Regulations

These rules will be interpreted solely by the Tournament Committee. All decisions are final.

Violation of these rules can result in disqualification.

## TEAM ENTRY:

All teams will need to register for the tournament and pay the fee on the Fish Donkey App. There will be a non-refundable fee for the use of the app.

## KWA/AIM COMPETITION:

1. Anglers agree to use any and all official equipment provided by or required by the KWA.
2. Anglers must use the Fish Donkey app.
3. After the start of the official pre-tournament Rules Meeting, contestants may not enter tournament waters to navigate, locate fish, or find potential fishing waters. Contestants are allowed to fish in tournament waters ONLY during tournament fishing hours.
4. If travel by water is allowed by the Tournament Director- anglers traveling by water to the official launch site must proceed directly to and from their lodging facilities, launch, or slip location.
5. On-the-water testing of engines or equipment after the pre-tournament rules meeting is allowed only with permission from the Tournament Director. No Exceptions.
6. Tournament water boundaries shall be established by the Tournament Director in advance of each event. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Only water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat.
7. Prior to take-off, each boat MUST be available for inspection by a Tournament Director.
8. Each boat must display a boat number provided by the KWA at take-off and check-in.
9. Competitors must leave from and return to the official Start/Finish checkpoint by boat. Towing a boat on a trailer during tournament hours is prohibited.
10. Prior to take-off, boat numbers are assigned by random drawing and all boats must be positioned in order by boat number as specified by the Tournament Director. Take-off will occur on schedule. Any boat that is out of order or delaying the start of the field will be held to the end of the line.
11. All competitors must remain in contact with the boat at all times. Allowed exceptions to this rule are: In case of an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to a rescue boat including any boat operated by non-competitors; and in case of a mechanical breakdown.
12. During tournament fishing hours, contestants must not solicit, share, or receive fishing information pertaining to method or type of presentations being used, lure selection or color, and location of fish or type of water being fished, with other contestants or non-contestants.
13. No one is allowed to "hold" a fishing location for a contestant under any circumstance.
14. The number of permitted fishing rods and lures is dependent on the local and state regulations. In no instance will more than three lines or three lures per angler be permitted. A lure is defined as having one or more hooks, and does NOT include weights (snap weights, trolling weights, bottom bouncers, etc.) Unless state regulations are more restrictive, a lure can be no longer than 12 inches long.
15. All fish must be caught live on a hook and line in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish (that is, not hooked per state regulations) will have their entire daily catch disqualified.
16. All boats are required to check-in with tournament officials at the end of each day. Boats shall be identified by means of their boat number.
17. Boat number and rulers will be turned in at the end of the tournament. Failure to turn in either with result in a \$50 fine for each item not turned in.

## FISH DONKEY CATCH-RECORD-RELEASE™ FORMAT:

1. AIM events are designed for "weigh-in" through a photo referred to as Catch-Record-Release™ (CRR). No fish will be brought to the "weigh-in stage".
2. *Only a UNIQUE Walleye, Sauger, or Saugeye may be processed and scored. A UNIQUE fish by AIM definition is one that has just been caught using legal fishing methods, recorded, and released. Any discrepancies in the UNIQUENESS of a fish will cause a team to be subject to a voice analysis or polygraph test. Failure of this test will result in disqualification, as well as a lifetime ban from KWA/AIM events.*
3. AIM requires a complete photographic record of each fish scored. Boat partners will work together to measure, photograph, and record their catch using the official KWA Ruler of the fish must be clearly photographed.

## AIM CATCH-RECORD-RELEASE™ PROCEDURES:

1. The Catch-Record-Release™ procedures will be reviewed at each Rules Meeting.
2. One partner holds the fish on the official KWA Ruler. The mouth of the fish **MUST be touching** the ruler to the LEFT (Head to Left) - (the white part of official ruler), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length on the RIGHT end of the ruler (Tail to the Right).
3. The partners agree on the length of the fish to 1/4th inch accuracy. If the tail fin touches or crosses a graduation line on the ruler, the official length of the fish for scoring purposes will be shortened to the next one quarter (1/4th) of an inch line on the ruler.
4. While the fish is being held on the ruler, a "scoring" photo must be taken of the fish which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The HEAD and TAIL of the fish must be included and show clearly. The photograph must be taken of the LEFT side of the fish ONLY (belly towards the angler holding the fish, head to the left). A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, and the left side of the fish on the ruler WILL NOT BE SCORED. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed.
5. Another photo MUST be taken of the fish being held up by a partner. This "hero shot" photo MUST show the entire RIGHT side of the fish. These photos will be used for technical evaluation and may be used on stage during the awards ceremony or posted to AIM media outlets (web, Facebook, etc.)
6. A video will be taken of the fish being released into the water. The fish must then be immediately released back into the water by the partner holding the fish.
7. Record the length of the fish on the Official Scorecard and both partners should validate the length recorded for accuracy.
8. In the instance when two or more fish are caught at the same time, the CRR process requires that one fish must be measured, photographed, and video released as quickly as possible before the next fish can be processed.
9. NO fish are to be placed in the live well. It is NOT permissible to hold fish in water using nets, lines, stringers, etc. Delays in releasing fish may be grounds for disqualification.
10. In order to speed up the CRR process, while a fish is in the boat, anglers will NOT be allowed to reset or place any fishing lines in the water. After all fish are processed and released, normal angling may resume.

## SCORING:

1. At the completion of the tournament day, each Team will select up to FIVE (5) fish to be counted towards their daily weight and designate these fish on the Fish Donkey App. These are the only fish that will be scored. Then each Team will convert the lengths of each of the FIVE designated fish to weight using a standardized Length-to-Weight Conversion Chart. The SUM of these FIVE fish will be the Teams unofficial total weight for the day.
2. At the daily check-in, the KWA provided equipment including the ruler, boat number will be turned in to a tournament official. The photos of each fish will be used for confirmation of length and to validate weight for that day.
3. In the event a photo that designates a fish to be scored is judged to be unscorable, a replacement fish will not be allowed.
4. In the event that TWO (or more) photos at one or more events that designate fish to be scored are judged to be unscorable, the team will lose all weight for the day and their points for team of the year standings.
5. Tournament standings and final results shall be determined by the converted weight of each Teams daily "limit".
6. The official minimum length will be 15 inches; the tail MUST touch at least the 15-inch mark on the ruler. If a fish recorded on the Fish Donkey App has an associated fish photo the does not meet the minimum length, it shall result in the entire daily weight being disqualified.
7. There will be a 2-inch bonus added to legal length fish determined by the lake length limit.
8. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, stretched, pushed, pulled, manipulated in any way or otherwise altered will be credited only at the discretion of KWA Tournament Directors. Any fish that are deemed altered by an angler may result in Team disqualification for the day or event.

## 5. ANGLER DISPUTES:

1. See KWA Rule 19. Protests
2. The tournament committee reserves the right to view pictures up to one week after the date of the event as it pertains to points.