

Kansas Walleye Association - 2025 Tournament Rules and Regulations

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

1. Contestant Eligibility:

Each KWA tournament is a two person Buddy Team tournament. Contestants must be 16 years of age or accompanied by an adult to participate. You do not have to be a KWA member to fish the tournaments or be eligible for prizes at that tournament. However, both team contestants must be members in order for the team to receive points for year-end awards and to earn eligibility for the Cabela's National Team Championship Tournament. To be entered in sidepot tournaments, both contestants must be KWA and TWF members.

2. Pre-Tournament Practice:

There are no closed periods on the lake prior to registration. The lake will be closed to all contestants at 6:00 p.m. the evening prior to the tournament.

3. Pre-Meeting:

A pre-meeting is held on the evening before each tournament, beginning with registration at **6:00 p.m.** The tournament rules, boat inspection time and start time will be announced at this meeting. At least one member per team is required to attend and sign-in at the pre-meeting. Failure to attend the pre-meeting will result in that team being placed at the end of the take off, regardless of the original boat take-off position.

4. Waiver:

Promoters, tournament officials, directors and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies, agents, etc., are not responsible for death, injuries, damages, liability, theft, fire or loss of any kind to entrants. Each entrant, upon signing an entry form will be in effect, signing a waiver form.

5. Fees:

The entry fee is \$100.00 per boat for KWA members and \$120.00 for non-members for all tournaments. Mail proper fee and entry form to the ***KWA, 1314 North Wilshire Drive, Hutchinson, KS. 67501.*** All entries paid for by personal check must be postmarked one week in advance of the tournament. Entries will also be accepted at the pre-meeting if paid with cash, money order, Venmo or credit card.

6. Take-Off Position:

The take-off position will be determined by the early bird drawing held at the annual banquet and after that by the earliest postmarked date.

7. Safety:

Safe boating conduct and a high standard of sportsmanship and courtesy must be observed at all times. Any infractions of these rules may be cause for disqualification. All entrants must wear a personal flotation device when the big motor is engaged at more than a trolling speed. No alcoholic

beverages are allowed in the boat at any time during tournament hours. The safety of all contestants is the number one concern in all KWA tournaments.

It is solely the responsibility of the contestants to be aware of changing weather situations. If weather conditions become unsafe during the event hours, the contestants are required to seek safe shelter until the weather passes. All teams are required to report by the end of each tournament whether or not the team has fish to weigh-in.

8. Tackle and Equipment:

Each team is responsible for supplying its own boat and equipment. All fish must be caught by rod and reel using legal methods only. Only two rods per person are allowed unless a team member has a Kansas license to fish with a third rod.

9. Contestant Communication:

During tournament hours (i.e. from takeoff until weigh-in) all on-water communication by contestants with other contestants (excluding partner) pertaining to: 1) method or type of presentations being used, 2) lure selection or color and 3) location of fish or type of water being fished is strictly prohibited. Additionally, during tournament hours, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors or follow a non-competitor's boat. Neither contestants nor non-contestants are allowed to anchor or hold spots for KWA tournament contestants.

KWA Tournaments are boat versus boat competition. No group team fishing is allowed.

During the tournament hours a competitor may not transmit by any form of communication including but not limited to a cell phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, texting, any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating, catching fish or discussing your daily catch of fish nor receive any form of communication to aid you in the locating or catching of fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone, texting, etc. only in an emergency.

10. Permitted Fishing Locations:

Each tournament is restricted to fishing within the boundaries of that lake. There are no off limits on the lake waters. All fishing must be done from a boat. Boat contestants must remain in their boat at all times, except in cases of dire emergency.

11. Buffer Zones:

All boats must maintain a 50-foot buffer zone between boats (except officials' boats). If other tournament contestants come within that zone, you can ask them to move, if you were there first.

12. Length & Stringer Limits: The length limit will be consistent with State Regulations. Each team is allowed to weigh-in five (5) walleye, sauger, saugeye—or any combi-

nation. All fish must meet walleye length limits. Any team weighing in a short fish will have their entire day's catch disqualified. The place finish will be determined by the total weight of the teams' catches. If any fish are question- able

13. Bonus for Live Released Fish:

The KWA encourages contestants to keep their walleye catches alive and releasable (e.g. frequent aeration in livewell, sufficient water in livewell, etc.). Therefore, a bonus of a tenth of a pound per fish (.10/lb.) for all walleye released alive will be awarded. For example - if you weigh- in a five fish limit and they are all released alive, you will receive five tenths of a pound (.50 lb.) bonus added to your total weight.

14. Weigh in:

Fish will be left in the livewell until the boat is trailered. You will stop at the weigh in trailer and let the partner take the fish to the scales.

15. Late Penalty:

Teams must be inside the take-off cove at the deadline designated for their flight. Up to 15 minutes late will result in half the day's weight deducted. If a team arrives up to 15 minutes late and they hold the large walleye for the tournament that team can still hold the large walleye status. However, their total weight will still be deducted by half. Over 15 minutes late results in total weight deduction and loss of large walleye status.

16. Prize Winners and Awards:

Prizes are awarded according to the total weight of each team's catch. The big walleye for each team shall be used to break heavy stringer ties.

Each team will be responsible for choosing their largest walleye from the stringer brought to the weigh-in. The big stringer for each team will be used to break largest walleye ties. There is an 80% payback of the entry fees collected at each tournament. The payback is one place for each eight entries. There is also a cash prize of \$100 at each tournament for the largest walleye caught. Plaques are awarded to the top three teams at each tournament as well as the person catching the largest walleye. Contestant teams do not need to be KWA members to qualify for individual tournament prizes and awards.

An IRS form 1099 will be filed for any fishing contestant earning \$600 or more during the 2025 fishing season.

17. Point System:

Points are awarded to KWA member teams at each tournament. Each team receives five (5) points for entering the tournament plus 50 points for a first place finish. Therefore a total of 55 points is received for first place, 54 points for second, etc. If you weigh a walleye in the tournament, you will receive a minimum of ten (10) points.

(white gills, overall pink flesh, soft flesh, sunken eyes, etc.,) due to poor handling by a team, those fish may not be counted. Tournament officials reserve the right to dis- allow any questionable fish from the stringer.

If tournament boats do not check in at the end of the tournament the team will not receive their points. The year-end order of finish, starting with the highest scores, will determine who will be eligible for slots awarded to our club for the Cabela's National Walleye Championship (NTC) the following spring. The top five highest scoring buddy teams as well as the top twenty teams of the season will each receive recognition at the annual awards banquet.

18. Tournament Rights:

Tournament officials reserve the right to refuse entry to any individuals.

19. Protests:

Only contestants and tournament officials have a right to protest a team or contestant. An official written protest with a \$100 fee must be filed with a tournament official within 30 minutes of the completion of daily weigh-in. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. If the protest is not valid, the accuser will lose their \$100. In the event rule infractions occurred a penalty of daily and/or tournament weight may be applied. Cash, prizes and awards must be returned if so requested. If a protest is found valid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs.

20. Miscellaneous:

All entrants must read the rules, fill out the entry form, sign it, pay the appropriate fees and be at the pre-meeting. No refunds will be made nor will credit be extended for any cancellations. No refunds or credits are extended to teams that choose not to fish due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. No other refunds allowed (except in cases of dire emergency). All rules have 'loop-holes.' It is the intention of the sponsors to provide an honest and sportsmanlike tournament. Contestants are reminded that each team should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner when fishing. In the interest of good sportsmanship, all contestants are reminded that the 'spirit of the rule,' will prevail in all judgment cases. All decisions are final.

21. Team Substitutes:

There is a hardship rule for emergencies. Each team is allowed one (1) substitute per partner per season. Substitutes do not need to be KWA Members. For a two day tournament, teams will be allowed to have a different sub on both days if needed.

22. Disabled boat:

In the event of boat trouble, you may ride in with another tournament boat to weigh fish. Anglers may call a tournament director without penalty. If a tournament director is called to assist or rescue a team the tournament director will be excused in the event that the boat is late. The contestant who called for assistance will receive the normal penalty should they be late.