
2008

Official PWT Rules

REVISED FEBRUARY 14, 2008

I. Participants & Eligibility:

A. Each contestant must complete, sign and submit an official entry form along with the correct entry fee deposit to the Professional Walleye Trail credentials committee. Upon acceptance, applicants will be entered into the fields or placed on an alternate list.

B. Contestants must be 18 years of age or older, capable of understanding and performing safety functions, current subscriber to Walleye In-Sider (the official publication of the PWT), in good physical & mental condition and must be able to:

- **Freely move about the boat without assistance.**
- **Navigate by being able to follow a compass heading and recognize prominent landmarks.**
- **Assist with a man-overboard rescue effort from any point in the boat.**
- **Learn the starting and driving procedures (pro's instructions before departure), and drive a boat (at least at low speed).**
- **Learn the other aspects of safety, operation of a marine band radio and boat control.**

Note: the PWT reserves the right to remove any person who doesn't meet these criteria.

C. Each contestant must possess all necessary valid fishing licenses.

D. The PWT reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual who has been disciplined for tournament rules violations.

E. All contestants will be eligible for daily big fish prizes

F. Contestants must provide a credit card account number to the PWT or pay fees with checks or money orders for those who do not use credit cards. **Payment must be received by the posted deadline.** Appropriate balances will be charged on the deadline. **NO debit cards.**

PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION:

G. The professional fields will be limited to a maximum number of anglers per series. Pro anglers electing to fish the PWT Pro-Am Series presented by Minn Kota may fish all four qualifiers or may apply for one, two or three tournaments. Rookie pro applicants, based on qualifications, will be considered, and a minimum of six rookie pro openings will be available.

H. Pro entry forms must be received by the selection committee along with the first tournament entry fee (\$1,500) and a final tournament entry fee (\$1,500) and a credit card authorization form. A deposit will be applied to the final tournament. Successful applicants will be notified. Pro entry fee balances will be charged to Visa, MasterCard or American Express cards upon acceptance and on deadlines. *If the PWT is notified and a fully paid, qualified alternate fills the spot, a 50% entry fee refund may be granted. Note: of each entry fee, \$1400 will be designated for the purse; \$100 is a Championship surcharge.*

I. Pro anglers fishing all tournaments will submit two entry fees (or credit card will be charged) for the first and last events.

J. All PWT Professional contestants must submit a certificate of insurance 30 days prior to the season naming the In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail a certificate holder and indicating a boating liability policy with a minimum coverage of \$300,000. Certificates must be provided to PWT offices in order to compete.

AMATEUR PARTNER/CO-ANGLER APPLICATION:

L. Amateur partners/co-anglers may apply to fish individual tournaments. Amateur partner/co-angler entries for

individual events are \$375, and \$750 for the Super Pro Can-Am. Amateur partners/co-anglers will be charged the tournament fee upon acceptance into the field. When all slots are filled, alternate lists will be maintained for each tournament. Alternates will be charged as they move into the top three. Paid contestants on the alternate list who do not make it into the tournament will receive a full refund. Amateur partners/co-anglers may apply to fish tournaments in either series by submitting the entry fee (check or credit card number). A credit card authorization form will allow entry fees to be deducted prior to each event. *If the PWT is notified and a fully paid, qualified alternate fills the spot, a 50% entry fee refund may be granted.*

M. Amateurs/co-anglers fishing the entire tournament series will be guaranteed of fishing if their entries are received prior to by February 25, 2008.

N. If there is pro attrition once an event has started, the last entered amateur partner/co-angler will be withdrawn to equalize the field if pro alternates do not fill the field. Any amateur partner/co-angler removed due to this situation will receive a full refund.

II. Scoring:

A. This is a competitive pro and amateur partner/co-angler tournament fishing experience. Pros will work together with their daily partners; the optimum learning occurs by observing the pros in action. Pros and amateur partners/co-anglers will fish together for the maximum boat weight. Each partner will carry the combined daily "boat" weight into the following competition day. Each contestant's weight in pounds will determine final tournament standings. In a trolling scenario, amateur partners/co-anglers will have an equal opportunity to set rods and land fish.

B. Only walleye, sauger and saugeye will be weighed. Each boat may weigh the daily tournament limit. Minimum sizes and limits will be announced prior to each tournament. Walleyes will be measured in accordance with American Fisheries Society standards; closed mouth, pinched tail. The official PWT ruler will be "The Judge."

C. Payout will be guaranteed if 120 pro and 120 amateur partner/co-angler contestants fish the Pro-Am Series and 50 pros and 50 amateurs fish the Super Pro Can-Am.

D. If a contestant brings one more than the specified tournament daily limit to the bump judge, the largest fish in the bag will be thrown out. The remaining fish will be weighed. If two or more additional fish are brought in, the entire catch will be disqualified.

E. In case of a first-place pro tie, the first tie-breaker will be the heaviest one-day weight; followed by the second heaviest daily weight. Ties for other places will split awards. Amateur partner/co-angler ties will be determined by a coin toss.

F. In the event the final day is cancelled due to weather, the awards ceremony will be held as close to noon as possible.

G. Amateurs/Co-Anglers must be present at the final day awards ceremony to collect their prizes or they will be forfeited.

H. If a designated tournament release site is posted, it will be off limits.

I. Any fish altered (before or after being caught) which enhances the weight or circumvents tournament slot limits will result in loss of total weight for the day. Altering fish penalty: angler will be banned from PWT events.

J. At the conclusion of the final Pro-Am event, the angler who accumulates the most points fishing all four tournaments will determine the Angler of the Year. In the case of a tie for Angler of the Year, the highest tournament finish will determine winner.

K. The winner's weight at each tournament will earn 100 points. All other contestants will receive points based on a percentage of their weights to the winner. For example, if 100 pounds wins a tournament, an angler with 50 pounds would receive 50 points.

III. Contestant Pairing:

A. Contestants will be paired by tournament officials. Amateur partners/co-anglers fish each day with a different pro. The control of the boat will be granted to the professional. Partners must discuss daily fishing plans, safety, electronics, fishing tactics, netting, etc, before each morning start.

B. In the case of pros drawn with pros, which may occur if the Amateur partner/co-angler field is reduced (and sufficient Amateur partner alternates are not available), the highest seeded pro will be in control of the boat. Pros will be drawn together for only one tournament day. The pros drawn together may share fishing information and gear.

C. Partners are responsible for locating and meeting each other. Partner information cards will be distributed at the rules meeting.

IV. Pre-Tournament Practice & Registration:

A. Pro contestants must register at the official registration location before each tournament. Penalty for failure to register during this time period: pro must pay a \$100 fine. Exceptions must be approved in advance with a PWT director. If a pro's packet is not available at pre-registration, that pro must register with PWT officials during the designated time.

B. All contestants must be off the water by 2 p.m. the day before each qualifying tournament. The rules meeting follows at 6 p.m. All anglers must be in attendance by 6 p.m. Penalty for being late to rules meeting: contestant must pay a \$100 fine. All contestants (especially amateur partners/co-anglers) are encouraged to attend the PWT school where the subjects will deal with the upcoming tournament waters, tactics, new products, sponsorship and more.

C. Amateur partner/co-angler contestants must register at PWT headquarters no later than 4 p.m. the day before each qualifying tournament. Late Amateur partner/co-angler registrants may be replaced with alternates. Notify PWT officials in advance if you'll register after 4 p.m. due to unforeseen circumstances.

D. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to know the schedule of events for registration time and location and other meeting functions or obtain times from PWT.

V. Tournament Format:

A. PWT tournaments will be three days, unless delayed or shortened due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Great Lakes events include a fourth "Wind Day" in case of two previous cancellation days. Tournament boundaries will be announced prior to each event and may be restricted in the event of severe weather or for other reasons. Restricted zones will be announced prior to the event.

B. Once a tournament day begins, a weigh-in will occur unless the day is cancelled by tournament officials. If a cancellation occurs, all contestants will be notified via marine band radio and a weigh-in will not be conducted. Upon notification, all boats will cease fishing and return immediately (advising all boats they encounter on the return). All boats should "echo response" the official cancellation-notice to assure all hear the message. All boats must contact PWT officials as soon as they return to a safe harbor.

C. Contestants will check out each morning, and check in each afternoon at designated locations with official time-keepers. At check-in, all contestants will be issued a number, and then proceed to the dock in numerical order for a second mandatory check-in, with or without fish. PWT officials will hold back leaders on the final day. Contestants who return late will forfeit their weight for the day. If a break-down occurs, contestants may transfer fish only to another contestant's boat, but must return on time. They may also opt to be towed in by a contestant or non-contestant, but must return on time.

D. When a contestant assists a boat in distress (tournament or non-tournament), contestant must note time and position and notify PWT headquarters as soon as possible. Tournament Director may weigh fish late for the pro contestant lending assistance if it is determined that the pro could have made the weigh-in on time.

E. Contestants must stay in contact with their boats, but may leave their boats for emergencies, to participate in rescue operations, to use bathroom facilities, to get live bait or gas. One partner must stay in contact with boat (unless emergency prohibits anybody being in the boat). Contestants may not pass or request bait, tackle or gear from other boats.

F. On tournament days, pro and amateur partners/co-anglers must stay off tournament waters before and after

tournament hours except to navigate in a straight line to a launch ramp, marina or lodging facilities.

G. No pets are permitted in boats during competition.

VI. Equipment & Tackle:

A. Artificial lures and live bait are allowed. The Super Pro CAN-AM will be artificials only.

B. All walleyes must be caught on hook and line. A maximum of two lines per contestant will be allowed where legal with one lure per line or one rod with two lures.

C. Each professional will provide a boat with all Coast Guard local, state, regional and provincial required safety equipment (including a type IV throw cushion, flare kit, distress flag, horn or whistle and fire extinguisher). In addition, each boat is required to have a fully functional “fixed-base” marine band radio and adequate fixed antenna, an operable bilge pump, an anchor with 100 feet of rope and a built-in, flow-through live-well system with adequate aeration to keep walleyes alive. At the first tournament, a boat inspection may occur.

D. Amateur partners/co-anglers are not permitted to bring any tackle or a GPS into the pro's boat. Pros will provide partners with all tackle.

E. Only “fixed-base” marine band radios are acceptable. They must be functional and tuned to the PWT prescribed channel all day. A non-working radio will keep the pro in the harbor until the radio is replaced or repaired.

Note: Keep microphones dry.

F. Radio, pager, text-messaging and phone communications are prohibited. Cellular phones must be turned off during competition hours, but they may be used for safety or emergency calls. *In the event of a life-and-death emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials.* For all other tournament emergencies, contact PWT officials first.

G. Pros must have their names on both sides of the main outboard. This professional vinyl lettering must be easy-to-read (contrasting color to outboard) and placed above the outboard brand logo. **THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH NAME MUST BE AT LEAST TWO-INCHES TALL.** Enlargements of signatures are not allowed. “Loaner” boats must also comply.

H. PWT dress code: Clean shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, pants, jeans or shorts while competing or practicing at a tournament site. Pro tournament shirts required for camera appearances. In case of inclement weather, appropriate rain gear may be worn on camera and stage.

VII. Safety:

A. Each competitor must observe safe boat conduct, no-wake zones, and local navigation rules and demonstrate boating courtesy at all times.

B. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver, which must be fully secured whenever running above trolling speed.

C. Instant stop switches must be operable and in use when contestants are using the main combustion engine above trolling speed.

D. Main combustion engine horsepower may not exceed the manufacturers original horsepower rating plate on the boat.

E. All boats (tiller and console) must be equipped with a seat and at least one handle device for the amateur partner/co-angler to grip while underway.

F. Only factory installed (built-in) gas tanks may be used. PWT directors must approve any additional fuel containers in writing.

G. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than prescriptions) during tournament hours is prohibited. No alcohol containers inside barricaded weigh-in area.

H. Tournament officials reserve the right to disallow the use of any boat they deem unsafe or unsuitable for use in a PWT competition.

I. The Tournament Director may declare any entrant or participant ineligible to compete who may hinder or endanger the safety and well being of any contestant or be unable to perform safety functions.

J. If lightning is visible, use common sense. Proceed to safe waters as necessary.

VIII. Sportsmanship:

A. All PWT professional anglers are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times towards other pros, amateur partners/co-anglers and non-contestants. This shall include the areas of safety, conservation, civility and courtesy. Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing.

B. Any contestant's conduct or actions which negatively reflect on the PWT, the natural resources, other contestants, sponsors or the host community at any time will be subject to disqualification. *All Professional Walleye Trail tournament contestants will do everything possible to maximize the release of fish.*

C. During tournament fishing hours, contestants will not solicit, share or receive fishing information from contestants or non-contestants. Amateur partners/co-anglers may not recommend or share fishing spots or other "how-to" information with their pros. Amateur partners/co-anglers who share their pro's fishing spots with any other contestants will be disqualified along with the person utilizing this information. Non-contestants will not be allowed to anchor or hold spots for PWT contestants.

D. Radar may only be used in emergencies or for navigation. No binoculars in boats while at a tournament site.

E. In view of the expense involved in operating a fully-rigged walleye tournament boat, it is suggested that the amateur/co-angler contribute to the daily fuel cost.

IX. Rules & Interpretation:

A. The Tournament Director will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and his decision in all disputes is final.

B. Contestants will be responsible for knowing and abiding by all PWT, state and local rules and regulations which pertain to the tournament waters.

C. All protests must be made with the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of completion of daily weigh-in. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. In the event rules infractions are brought to the Tournament Director's attention at any time, and it is determined a violation occurred; daily and/or tournament weight may be forfeited as well as cash, prizes and awards.

D. Tournament officials reserve the right to utilize polygraph tests. Contestants agree to submit to a polygraph test and abide by the results when signing the PWT tournament waiver. Winnings will be withheld pending polygraph results.

E. Tournament officials will randomly inspect stomach contents and X-Ray fish.

X. PWT CHAMPIONSHIP SHOOTOUT:

A. A total of 50 pro anglers (the top 50 in the 2008 Angler of the Year race) will be invited to the PWT Championship Shootout! The 2008 Champion is guaranteed a Championship berth, but must fish the 2008 tour to qualify.

B. The PWT Championship Shootout will be a one-day event, the day after the final Pro-Am qualifier at Hudson, Wis.

C. First place is guaranteed at \$50,000.

D. The \$100 Championship surcharge fees paid by contestants throughout the season will all be paid from second place and down.

E. The PWT Championship Shootout schedule will be announced.

NOTE: The PWT reserves the right to revise rules prior to the start of the 2008 season. Violation of any PWT rules or State Laws may be cause for penalty or disqualification.

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