



OFFICIAL RULES

Pacific Northwest Walleye Circuit, Gordon Steinmetz Memorial Spring Walleye Classic

1. **ELIGIBILITY**: Entries accepted as two person teams only. Any applicant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult partner. Tournament officials will make any and all determinations of eligibility.
2. **REGISTRATION**: Registration will be capped at 125 teams. Teams will be accepted as contestants on a first come, first serve basis. A standby list will be compiled also on a first come, first serve basis to be used in the event of cancellations. Entries close at 5:00 pm on Friday, May 19, 2017.
3. **PRE-FISHING**: Water will be closed to all pre-registered persons and potential contestants at 4:00 pm on Friday before official tournament hours begin. Persons who are on the water for any reason after this time will not be eligible to enter this tournament.
4. **REGULATIONS**: All contestants must observe U.S. Coast Guard and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife rules and regulations. Any contestants cited for Federal or State rule violations will be subject to disqualification.
5. **TEAMS**: Contestants must enter as two-person teams. Any change in team members must be approved by the tournament director, and a new application must be signed. If an emergency arises and one team member is unable to continue fishing, the other team member may finish that day's fishing individually. The same bag limits apply 6 fish in possession at least 16" minimum length, only two of which may be 24" or over.
6. **INSPECTIONS**: Boats will receive an inspection each day prior to launching. All contestants will launch and depart from Coulee Playland Resort. No boats may have walleye on board prior to start of the tournament. All boats must carry and display markings approved by tournament officials. Boats, tackle, and equipment may be inspected at any time before, during, or after the tournament. All boats must meet or exceed all State and Federal safety requirements.
7. **EMERGENCIES ON THE WATER**: If your boat is in distress, please flip your motor cowl banner from green to orange. The nearest competitor must seek to help the disabled vessel. An emergency contact must be provided upon registration for the tournament.
8. **TACKLE AND BAIT**: Washington State rules and regulations apply. Spare equipment may be carried in the boat.
9. **BOAT OPERATION**: Each entrant is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD upon take-off each day and whenever the boat is being operated at planing speed. Teams may depart tournament headquarters only under the direction of tournament officials. It is considered good sportsmanship to

maintain a minimum distance of 20 feet from another boat. No boat contact will be allowed except by a tournament patrol boat.

10. CATCH AND RELEASE POLICY: (CULLING) THE USE OF AN AERATED LIVEWELL IS MANDATORY – NO EXCEPTIONS. All fish must be kept in good condition. Any fish that has been injured by hook or handling may not be released. At no time may a team's livewell contain more than 6 walleye. Whenever a fish in the livewell is replaced with new catch, the fish to be released must be in good condition. Gordon Steinmetz Memorial Spring Walleye Classic requires all tournament contestants to have and use LIVEWELLS WITH A FUNCTIONAL FRESHWATER PUMP.
11. CHECKING IN AND LATE PENALTY: All boats must be checked in each day at tournament headquarters regardless if the team has fish to weigh. The team number and arrival time will be recorded upon arrival. Boats arriving after official check in time will be penalized 20% of that day's catch weight, and will be eliminated from any big fish prizes. Boats over 5 minutes late will be disqualified for that day. Boats that are late to check in due to medical emergencies, mechanical problems, dangerous weather, or other extenuating circumstances may have penalties waived if reasonable effort has been made to contact tournament director prior to late arrival (discretion of tournament officials).
12. SCORING: Each team may weigh up to 6 walleye, only two of which may be longer than 24". If any fish shows signs of poor handling, these fish WILL NOT be counted. The weigh master will make all determinations as to the condition of each fish, as well as length, and weight. Final measurement is determined on a flat board with mouth closed and tail in a relaxed position. Any team's bag limit containing fish that are under 16" or more than two fish in excess of 24" will be disqualified for that day. Each dead fish weighed will be penalized 8 oz. – 3 dead fish per team will be disqualified for the day. Final weight is determined after any penalties have been assessed. The weigh master's decision is final. Awards of prizes will be based on the two day weight total. Winners must pass a polygraph test, at winner's expense, if required to do so by tournament officials.
13. ALCOHOL: No alcohol will be allowed in boat or consumed during tournament hours. Any contestant visibly intoxicated will not be allowed to fish. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from tournament and possibly for circuit season.
14. LANDING: While contestants are engaged in competition, team boats may only land at tournament headquarters. Landing at any other location will result in disqualification (subject to review by tournament officials).
15. RADIO OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: Communication with the clear intent to gain a competitive advantage during the designated fishing hours of the tournament will be subject to disqualification (subject to review by tournament officials). Methods of electronic communication under the umbrella of this rule include cell phones, text messages, social media, radios, or other electronic devices. The use of cell phones or radios to report emergencies, call for help, or receive severe weather alerts are exempt from the rule of disqualification.
16. SPIRIT OF THE RULE: It is the intention of this tournament to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. When a marker buoy is placed in the water it will establish a 75' diameter fishing circle which may not be fished or navigated through by another contestant. Once a marker has been placed to establish a fishing circle, that contestant must remain within the 75' circle (not more than 2 boat lengths from the marker) and may leave only when playing a fish. Upon landing the fish, the contestant must immediately return to the 75' circle. The marker is only for fishing. When limited out or not fishing, marker buoy must be picked up. Fish may not be transported or stocked on a spot or in an area by contestants or for them by others prior to or during the tournament. Hole sitting by a non-contestant is

strictly prohibited. Unsportsmanlike conduct and cheating will result in disqualification. Interpretation of rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament officials, and all decisions will be final.

17. PROTEST POLICY: Only contestants and tournament officials have the right to protest the actions of another team or contestants. Protests must be presented in writing to the tournament director no later than ½ hour after the close of that fishing day. The designated protest committee will convene and investigate to make a decision regarding the protest. The protest committee and their agents are authorized to utilize polygraph examinations and other investigative techniques in order to determine the validity of the protest. The decision of the protest committee shall be majority vote and shall be final in all cases. Contestants waive any right to appeal the decision of the protest committee to a higher authority, including any court or jurisdiction in this or any other state.
18. WITHDRAWAL: Entry fee refunds will be made only if the team gives written notification of withdrawal by the Wednesday prior to the tournament. A service charge of \$50.00 will be assessed against refunds made due to withdrawal from the tournament.

INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT RULES

19. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Tournament headquarters will be located at Coulee Playland Resort, Electric City, Washington.
20. FISHING AREA: Fishing will be allowed within the boundaries of Banks Lake. No fishing will be allowed within the buoy lines or log booms of the of the inlet on the north end of the lake.
21. TOURNAMENT HOURS: Launching time will be 6:00 am for all contestants both days. Weigh in will be by flights with half the field weighing in at 3:00 pm, the remaining boats weighing in at 3:30 pm on Saturday and 1:30 pm & 2:00 pm on Sunday. The order that contestants launch and weigh on Day 2 will be the “reverse order” of launch and weigh on Day 1. Fish can be weighed any time after 7:00 am both days.
22. DRIVER’S MEETING: Driver’s meeting will be held at Coulee Playland Resort on Friday, May 19, 2017 at 5:00 pm.
23. ANY CHANGES IN THESE RULES WILL BE ADDRESSED AT THE DRIVER’S MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT.