

CORMORANT FALL CLASSIC WALLEYE TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

SUBJECT TO ANY MINNESOTA DNR TOURNAMENT REGULATION CHANGES

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Contestants must enter as two-person teams. Any person under 16 years of age must be teamed with their parent or guardian. Two minors may enter with a boat operator adult similar to the Student Angler Organization team format.
- B. Entries must be postmarked by Saturday, September 14, 2024, to qualify. A \$25.00 service charge per team will be retained on all refunds of entry regardless of cancellation date.
- C. Each contestant must have in his or her possession a valid fishing license from the State of Minnesota. Any person cited for violating state fishing or boating regulations during fishing hours will automatically have their team disqualified from the tournament.
- D. F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc, Camp Cormorant, or other sponsors and their corporations, agencies, agents are not to be held responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire, or any loss. Entrants will in effect sign a waiver upon signing the entry form.
- E. This is a Catch Record Release tournament. All fish are released immediately after data recording including picture(s) and length record on the official score card.

2. SAFETY

- A. All boats will be required to meet U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations as well as those of the State of Minnesota. Safe boating conduct and all safety precautions must be always observed.
- B. Each contestant will be required to have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD). It must always be worn when the main combustion engine is operating at anything above trolling speed.
- C. No alcoholic beverages are allowed during tournament hours. Drunkenness by any competitor during tournament hours will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification.
- D. Contestants may not leave their boat during tournament hours. In the event of thunderstorms or lightning, contestants are allowed to put into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing.

3. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Live bait and artificial lures are permissible. All fish must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner on hook and line. All fishing must be done from a tournament-inspected boat.
- B. Each contestant will be allowed a maximum of one line in the water at any time. Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat.
- C. Cell phones or radios are allowed for emergency use only. Transmitting information over a radio or phone concerning any aspect of the taking of fish during the tournament is prohibited and grounds for disqualification. The use of any type of binoculars is strictly forbidden and will be grounds for disqualification.
- D. No scorable fish may be placed in the contestant's live well at any time during tournament hours. If a fish is not releasable, the contestant may contact tournament staff to retrieve a fish that will not revive.

4. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS

- A. Fishing is permitted on Big Cormorant Lake only. No Fish from any other lake are permitted.

5. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

- A. The YMCA Camp Cormorant on Big Cormorant Lake will serve as tournament headquarters. All tournament boats will start from and return to the dock at YMCA Camp on Big Cormorant Lake during the tournament.

6. FISHING HOURS

- B. Boats must be available for the pre-start inspection before being allowed to leave in their respective flight.
- C. Fishing hours start at 8:00 AM with the field in single file. Flights will be announced at the rules meeting. Return starts at 4:00 PM.
- D. Contestants who return later than the assigned time, or who leave at an earlier time will be disqualified for that day.
- E. No contestant is permitted on the lake Saturday, September 20, or Sunday, September 21, 2024, except during tournament hours except for the sole purpose of entering from or exiting at other access points on the lake. Contestants being on the lake for any other reason must have written permission from the tournament directors. Pre-tournament practice is allowed up until 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 19, 2024.

7. SCORING

- A. All fish caught are documented on the Fish Score Card handed out to each team at the start of fishing each day.
- B. Prior to handing in the Fish Score Card, a team member must indicate/mark up to 6 fish being submitted for scoring.
- C. The Judge Tournament Ruler must be used to record all fish.
- D. FM Walleyes will have Judge Tournament rulers for sale at check-in on tournament days. The cost is \$40.
- E. The Fish Score Card and data storage device must be turned in after fishing each day. One team member must sign the card verifying the accuracy of the data recorded before turning the card in at the end of fishing each day.
- F. A team member must pass through the check-in line each day. Failure to pass through the check-in line will result in disqualification. This is a safety precaution to ensure all teams have made it safely off the water at the end of each day's fishing.
- G. All fish must measure at least 15 inches. Fish length is determined by taking a photograph of the fish on a Judge Tournament Ruler. The fish must be oriented so that the head of the fish appears on the left side of the photograph with the dorsal fin up. Fingers placed inside the gills or mouth of a fish during the taking of a photograph will result in disqualification of that fish. Tournament officials will provide a SD card. Contestants are required to provide a camera that will store photographs on a standard SD card.
- H. Fish scoring is a length-to-weight conversion. Length is recorded on the official score card as the next quarter inch over the length the fish touches on a Judge Tournament ruler, or shorter. All fish submitted on the official card must have a digital photograph supporting the score card.
- I. Prizes are awarded to teams except the Big Fish prize is awarded to an individual.
- J. In the event of ties, final placing will be determined by the greatest weight taken on the final day.

8. PROTESTS

The Tournament Committee, or any contestant, has a right to protest against another team or contestant. The protest must be filed in writing with the Tournament Director no later than one (1) hour after the close of that day's tournament fishing hours. A three (3) person protest committee shall be appointed by the Tournament Director prior to the tournament and will convene to hear all sides of any protest. The decision of the protest committee shall be final in all cases. A \$200 protest fee must accompany a written protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. If the protest is invalid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs, including polygraph. If the protest is invalid, the fee will not be returned.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. All questions or problems connected with the rules of this tournament are to be referred to the tournament director(s) or committee prior to the conclusion of the rules meeting.
- B. Contestants are not permitted to fish within twenty (20) yards of another boat at any time. No contestant's boat may pull up to another boat during tournament hours.
- C. Patrol and safety boats, Conservation officers and Sheriff's Dept boats may pull up and inspect contestants at any time. Anyone found cheating will be immediately disqualified and the reasons for that disqualification announced at weigh-in.
- D. Disqualification for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee.
- E. All rules have "loopholes". It is the intention of the sponsors to provide an honest sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the spirit of the rule will prevail in all cases.
- F. Contestants will be responsible for any applicable taxes due on any prizes.
- G. A \$50 shipping & handling fee will be deducted from prizes not picked up at the awards ceremony.

10. RULES MEETING

- A. One member of each team is required to attend the rules meeting at 5:00 pm, Thursday, September 19, 2022, at a location to be announced later.