

## **2009 High Desert Walleye Tournament Rules**

### **Rule Interpretation**

Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to High Desert Walleye and its tournament director, James Welch. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official check-in time each tournament day and need to be submitted with a \$50 protest fee, upon review of the protest, if found to be substantive, the \$50 fee will be refunded.

### **Safety**

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device anytime the main engine is in operation above idle from boat inspection until weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the main engine is in operation above idle. Each boat is encouraged to have a fully functional marine band base radio and adequate fixed antenna or a hand held radio in case of emergency. The use of mobile communication devices during tournament hours such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., is permitted **except to communicate fishing information.**

At the discretion of the tournament director tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

### **Sportsmanship**

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of illegal drug during tournament hours, any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules.

### **Participation and Eligibility**

Events are open to the general public.

Participation is open to people 12 years of age or older. Any minor entering a tournament must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form.

High Desert Walleye will accept 100 boats at this tournament. The possibility exists that over 100 boats may fish a tournament. Entries received after this tournament has filled will be placed on a waiting list.

Boat numbers will be confirmed at the rules meeting.

Registration and entry fees may be submitted in the form of check or money or cash only for on-site registration. Entry fees are non-refundable.

Those placed on the waiting list, that are not accepted into the tournament will receive a full refund after the tournament.

### **Pre-tournament Practice**

There will be no official practice period or off-limits period prior to the pre-tournament meeting. No contestant may be on tournament waters for the purpose of locating walleye or locating potential fishing waters after the pre-tournament meeting except during tournament hours.

### **Registration and Pre-tournament Meeting**

One member from each team must register in person at The Annex Bar and Grill (101 N. Hwy 54 Logan, New Mexico 88426) during the official registration hours 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. local time the day before the tournament. It is mandatory that at least one contestant attend the pre-tournament meeting, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. local time. If neither contestant is present that team will forfeit their entry fee and will not be entered in the tournament.

### **On the Water Boat Inspection**

During the tournament, the tournament staff will have all rights to board participant's boats and inspect for rules violations. Any team violating tournament rules will be disqualified immediately and will never be allowed to enter any High Desert Walleye event again.

### **Permitted Fishing Methods**

All fish must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Live bait may be used. No more than two fishing rods per angler may be used at a time. Local and State regulations take precedence over rod limits. Trolling is permitted.

### **Permitted Fishing Locations**

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off-limits" or "no fishing" by local, state or federal officials or within any other competitor's first marked fishing area. A "marked fishing area," is defined as a 50-foot diameter area centered with a marker buoy. The contestant must remain within the marked area and may leave only to play and land a fish. When limited out or not fishing, the marker must be picked up. A marked area may be navigated through if it restricts or blocks access to other fishable waters. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one of the partners

entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions the contestants' catch may be counted without penalty (except late penalties, dead fish penalties or any other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit that day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director to request a restart. If a contestant violates any part of this rule due to an emergency or for any other reason, they will forfeit that day's catch.

### **Pre-launch Boat Inspection**

ALL boats must be inspected by the tournament staff prior to launching each morning. The official location for boat inspection will be at the Marina Boat Ramp. Pre-launch inspections will begin at 5:30am in the parking lot of the Tackle Box. Pre-launch inspections will end at 6:30am. Boats that are late to the inspection site will forfeit that days weight.

During the Saturday inspection we will be looking for two U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices, one throwable flotation device, fire extinguisher, functioning sound device (horn or whistle), empty livewells and will perform random searches for alcohol. The Sunday inspection will be only of livewells and for alcohol.

### **Tournament Start and Weigh-in**

The High Desert Walleye tournament uses a numbering system where the boats go out in order on Saturday and in reverse order on Sunday.

Weigh-in will take place at the NEW permanent weigh-in facilities that were provided this year by Ute Lake State Park and The Friends of Ute Lake State Park. Teams not catching and weighing any fish must still check in at the weigh-in location at days end. Saturday all teams must be off plane and in the Marina area by 3:00 pm. Sunday all teams must be off plane and in the Marina area by 3:00 pm. Boats up to 15 minutes late to the weigh-in area will have half of that days weight forfeited. Boats more than 15 minutes late to the weigh-in area will forfeit all of that days weight.

### **Scoring**

Walleye, sauger or saugeye are accepted species. Your combined two-day weight will be used to determine overall placing for the tournament.

The limit will be a maximum of five (5) fish per boat per day. Contestants may possess (6) fish in the livewell at weigh-in but only bring (5) to the weigh-in. If more than (5) fish are weighed or you have more than a total of (6) fish in your livewell, your catch for that day will be disqualified. The official minimum length limit will be fourteen (14) inches. Any fish that is brought to the weigh in station that violates size restrictions set forth by tournament committee will result in the fish not being weighed and a 2 pound penalty assessed. Any fish that is brought in to the weigh station that violates state or local

regulations will result in the team's disqualification from the entire tournament. Every effort must be met to keep fish alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. 0.12 of the weight for each fish that is deemed dead will be deducted from a teams weight. (A releasable fish must be able to swim upright in the official tank.)

### **Cabela's NTC Qualifications**

High Desert Walleye has been selected as a qualifier for the Cabela's Walleye National Team Championship IN THE PAST, **spot(s) will be awarded by the Cabela's staff according to their rules** and all results from the tournament will be submitted to Eric Banks and Matt Kettler. Cabela's has made it clear that they will not tell an organization ahead of time if they will receive spots, this has created too many problems and we support their decision making process. "We cannot guarantee spots on the basis that you'll have a full field. However, if you have a full field I'd say that you'll get one spot easily and more to be determined. Run the tournament and let us know how it goes, from there we'll evaluate further."

### **Ties**

Ties will result in the prizes being added together and split evenly among the contestants.

### **Insurance**

Liability insurance is required of all contestants for the 2008 New Mexico Governors Cup Tournament.