

Mercury National 2021

Revisions to Event Procedures to Address COVID-19



Tournament Event Registration and Rules Meeting

- Registration will take place 3:30 p.m. through 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021.
- The **new registration location**, staffed by members of The Walleye Federation and the tournament director, is the parking lot of Fives Giddings & Lewis in Fond du Lac:

142 Doty Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- Four pop-up tents will be set up in the parking lot to allow anglers to register and pick up their captain's bags. The tents and registration tables will be spaced apart, and social-distancing guidance will be observed.
- The staff requests that all registering anglers wear a face mask or buff. Hand-sanitizer stands will be available at each registration table.
- Each captain's bag will include:
 - Mercury-branded face covering;
 - Mercury boat stickers for displaying each participant's boat number on his/her engine cowl (a new procedure replacing the customary use of boat boards);
 - A document showing check-in times (to be backed up by text messages to anglers each day with reminders of check-in times);
 - A document summarizing the instructions shared at the tournament director's meeting;
 - A copy of the tournament rules;
 - Mercury-branded hats and T-shirts; and
 - A Lund Boats brochure.
- **The rules meeting** will take place online beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the same day (June 11).
 - Anglers who registered in person will be able either to watch a stream of the rules meeting online or to stay and listen in the Fives Giddings & Lewis parking lot.
 - At least one member from each team who will actually be fishing the event must check in at G&L Parking Lot, and pick up their captains bag at 142 Doty St, Fond Du Lac, WI from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2021. Then they can stay for the rules meeting or leave and watch it online as they choose.
 - Online viewing options are the Mercury National website (link shown above) or the tournament's Facebook page (facebook.com/mercnationals).

Weigh-In During the Tournament, June 12-13

In observance of COVID-19 protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the weigh-in process will focus on accomplishing the task at hand in a manner that is as safe and socially-distanced as possible. This year the weigh-in process will be streamlined and will forgo the gathering of a crowd for entertainment purposes.

- The stage and weigh-in tent will be turned to face the river. Each team's weigh-in procedure will entail pulling the boat up to a designated permanent dock, where one of the anglers will disembark with the day's catch. The other angler will move the boat down the channel to one of the other permanent docks. The angler carrying the catch will walk up on stage, weigh the catch, and then leave to join his/her partner in the boat.
- The weigh-in tent area will be roped off and closed to the public.
- A weigh-master and logistics team will focus on moving the anglers on and off stage.
- There will be no celebrity M.C., and the number of event staff on hand will be significantly reduced.
- The weigh-ins will be live streamed on the Mercury National Tournament website and Facebook page. There will be no TV monitors or scoreboard at the event. Each day's results will remain posted on those online sites until several days after the event's completion.

Morning breakfast and coffee

- Be sure to load up before you arrive at the competition. There will be no gatherings, no food, and no beverages provided this year.