

46th ANNUAL MERCURY MARINE NATIONAL WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

- JUNE 8-9, 2024 -

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

I. PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY

- A. Contestants must enter as individuals and be 16 years of age or older as of June 7, 2024.
- B. Each contestant must possess a valid state fishing license.
- C. Each team member must correctly complete, sign & submit official entry form & complete entry fee, \$310 per team. (No refunds after May 17, 2024).
- D. The Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament reserves the right to refuse entry to any individuals who have been barred or disqualified from any tournament for rules violations.
- E. Entries accepted **ONLINE at MercuryNational.com** beginning 9am CT March 11, 2024 via credit card.
- F. Participation will be limited to approximately 300 teams. First come first served until the field is deemed full. All entries will be determined by date time stamp online. Mercury Marine is the final judge in all matters concerning entries.
- G. Boats may be parked in the secure truck and trailer parking lot on the corner of Harbor View Dr. and Main St. Shuttle transportation will be provided by Fred's Fast Track volunteer shuttle as needed.
- H. **All participating boats must be Mercury and/or Mariner powered exclusively (includes kicker).**
- I. No partner changes will be allowed after the close of Registration June 1st except in the case of a verifiable emergency approved by the Tournament Director and Tournament officials. If in the case of an emergency where a partner change is approved a \$50 administration fee will be collected.

II. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND REGISTRATION

- A. All contestants must be off the water by 12 p.m. the day before the tournament, Friday, June 7, 2024. Fishing is allowed only during tournament hours thereafter.
- B. At least one member from each team who will be fishing the event must check in at Mercury Island (Oven island) Fond Du Lac, WI from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 7, 2024.
- C. At least one member who will be fishing the event from each team must attend the rules briefing in person on Friday June 7th at 5:30pm.

III. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- A. Teams will check out each morning and check in each afternoon with an official timekeeper at the designated locations. Teams who return up to 15 minutes late will forfeit one-half their weight for that day. Over 15 minutes late will result in total loss of weight for that day.
- B. Teams must remain within tournament boundaries during the tournament hours. In the case of an emergency, teams may leave their boat to enter another team's boat or rescue craft. In such a situation one team member must call to notify the tournament director.
- C. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited.
- D. Teams must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid any restricted areas.
- E. Purchasing of gas and use of bathrooms during the tournament is allowed if one member of the team always remains with the boat.
- F. Tournament waters include Winnebago, Buttes des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan Chain of Lakes with the following boundaries: the first dam on the Fox River in Neenah, the Hwy. 21 bridge over the Fox River at Omro, the HWY. 10 bridge over the Wolf River at Fremont, and the mouth of all other tributaries and streams.
- G. Teams leave starting at 6:30am with the field in two groups in single file until the last boat departs. Boats will depart in two groups, in order from 1-150 West line and 151-300 East line on Saturday. Return will be in four flights, with the first returning at 2 p.m. and subsequent flights every half hour thereafter. The field will be reversed on Sunday.

IV. EQUIPMENT AND TACKLE

- A. Artificial and live bait will be allowed.
- B. Three lines per competitor will be allowed.
- C. Every boat used in competition must have all Coast Guard required safety equipment and a working live well that will adequately maintain alive a limit of walleyes.
- D. Mandatory checks will be done each morning for operational kill switch, PFD's and operational live well.
- E. Any communication by radio, cell phone, text messaging, digitally or otherwise with competitors or non-competitors (broadcasting or monitoring) for the purposes of location or catching fish during tournament hours will result in loss of weight for that day. A participant may only communicate via these methods in the case of an emergency or equipment breakdown.

V. WEIGH-IN AND LIVE-RELEASES

- A. The Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament will be run as a live- release event. Every team should do all they can to bring in releasable fish. Those fish not deemed releasable by the fisheries personnel on the scene will be donated to local charities.
- B. Only walleyes will be weighed. If a sauger is brought to weigh-in, your team's weight for that day will be disqualified. Each team may weigh five fish daily. Minimum size for walleyes is 15 inches. When your 6th fish goes into the livewell you are done fishing for the day. **NO CULLING** is allowed.
- C. A 1-ounce bonus will be awarded for each fish determined to be releasable by the weigh-in judge.
- D. You may not at any time restrict the movement of a fish in its natural habitat before or during an event, nor can you alter or enhance the weight or length of a fish in any way. Violation of these basic sporting principals may subject the team to disqualification from this and all future events.

VI. SCORING

- A. Total accumulated weight in pounds plus live-release bonus will determine the final tournament standings, the big fish awards, and any additional awards.
- B. In the case of a tie for any place, the tie breakers will be, 1.) Most number of legal fish weighed, 2.) Most number of legal fish weighed alive, 3.) Heaviest single days catch, 4.) Second heaviest single days catch, 5.) Means selected by tournament officials.
- C. All awards will be made following final tournament weigh-in, except those withheld pending polygraph examination.

VII. SAFETY

- A. Each competitor must always observe safe boating conduct.
- B. Each competitor is required to wear Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver which is fully secured whenever the main combustion engine is 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 Coast Guard, B.I.A. or N.M.M.A. horsepower rating plate on the boat.
- E. Boat registration numbers on all boats must be clear and identifiable.
- F. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those prescribed by a licensed physician or purchased over the counter), during the tournament is prohibited; this includes the weigh-in, up until your team's fish are weighed in. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from present and future events.
- G. Tournament officials reserve the right to delay, cancel or restrict tournament waters in the case of severe weather. In the event of a storm, lightning, severe weather or any unsafe condition, participants should remove themselves from competition and seek safety or shelter until it is safe to continue. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency.
- H. Tournament officials reserve the right to disallow the use of any boat and/or motor they deem unsafe, inappropriate, or unsuitable for use. Tournament Director's decision in this matter is final and may be made at any time.

VIII. SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. All competitors will be expected to always act in a sportsmanlike manner towards non-competitors and competitors alike. This shall include the areas of safety, conservation, and courtesy. Violators of this rule will be subject to disqualification.
- B. Any unfavorable conduct or action by a competitor which could negatively reflect on the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament will be grounds for disqualification or rejection of entry application.
- C. During tournament fishing hours, contestants will not discuss techniques, tactics, or fishing spots with any other competitors; nor will they be allowed to receive fishing information from non-competitors. Non-competitors will not be allowed to anchor or hold spots for contestants.

IX. RULES & INTERPRETATION

- A. Contestants are responsible for knowing tournament rules as well as state and local rules & regulations which pertain to the tournament waters. Any team violating state or local rules and regulations may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- B. All protests must be lodged with the Tournament Director in writing within 30 minutes of completion of the daily weigh-in. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. The Tournament Director will interpret the rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and his decision in all disputes is final.
- C. Tournament officials reserve the right to polygraph any contestant. See "waivers" section on entry form.
- D. If rules infractions are brought to the Tournament Director's attention at any time, and investigation proves a violation occurred, a penalty of daily weight and/or tournament weight may be made. Also, cash prizes and awards must be returned if so requested.

Entry Deadline - Is Friday May 31, 2024. NO new entries will be accepted after that date. YOU may REGISTER ONLINE ONLY beginning at 9:00am,CT March 11, 2024 at mercurynational.com - **Contact the event Tournament Director with all rules questions: TD@MercuryNational.com** - MERCURY NATIONAL C/O TWF, 5998 N Pleasant View Road, Ponca City OK 74601, O - 580-765-9031 – F- 580-765-2890, email: info@MercuryNational.com



NATIONAL WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

OFFICIAL Liability Release and Participant Agreement

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT:

List Everyone in The Boat by Name

I/We, _____
understand that this is a professional sporting event governed by rules. The Tournament Director shall act as the referee in all disputes and his decision based on his interpretation of the rules will be final and without legal appeal.

PHOTO AND VIDEO RELEASE:

As a participant in the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament, I understand and agree that my photograph or video tapes of me may be taken during my participation in the tournament by the tournament administrators or sponsors or media. As a voluntary participant in the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament, I agree that photographs, film, or video tapes taken of me during my participation in the tournament may be used for commercial purposes by tournament administrators, sponsors and the news media without royalties or prior consent.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

I acknowledge that I am VOLUNTARILY participating in the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament.

I am aware that my participation in the tournament listed on my entry form and as in all fishing tournament(s) creates the risk of serious personal injury or death. My participation could also lead to loss or damage to personal property which may result from my participation in the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament.

In exchange for being permitted to participate in the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament, I hereby RELEASE AND DISCHARGE the tournament administrator, Mercury Marine, Brunswick Corporation and the tournament sponsors, the Lighthouse Anglers, The Walleye Federation, LLC., Fond du Lac Festivals, their officers, directors, agents, employees and legal representatives (the "Released Parties") from the liabilities or injuries, damages or other loss sustained by me caused by the negligence or strict liability of the Released Parties. I do not release the Released Parties from liability for willful or intentional conduct.

I expressly recognize that loss of property, injury, or death could arise from (1) the fishing and boating activities contemplated by the tournament, (2) the fact that competition rules contemplate that participants will fish in boats belonging to OTHER participants in the contest, as well as their own boats (3) the fact that the risks normally encountered in open-water fishing from a boat may be enhanced by the existence of competition.

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION AND WAIVER AGREEMENT: As a participant in the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament, I understand that Mercury Marine has reserved the right to require a polygraph examination of any contestant, and that unsuccessful results from the examination, may, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Officials, be sufficient grounds for participant disqualification. I understand the winnings, if any, may be withheld pending results of the test.

I hereby agree to submit to a polygraph examination, if so requested. I further voluntarily waive any right or privilege I may have under Wisconsin Law or otherwise, to object to the disclosure by Mercury Marine to any third parties of the taking of the polygraph examination or the results of the examination.

I HAVE READ THE PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, PHOTO AND VIDEO RELEASE, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION AND WAIVER AGREEMENT CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS. I/WE SIGN UP VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS.

Boat Captain - Dated _____ Signed _____

Partner - Dated _____ Signed _____

This form must be agreed to by both team partners during registration for this event. Failure to do so will mean return of entry and ineligibility to compete. Entries will only be accepted when all information is completed.