OFFICIAL NATIONAL WALLEYE TOUR (NWT)

2027 RULES

These rules have been updated for 2027 — please take the time to read them in full, as several important changes affect this season.

NEW for 2027 — The National Walleye Tour has transitioned to an **invitation-only Professional field of 100 anglers** and a **split bait format**, with live bait permitted at select events (see 2027 NWT Schedule & Bait Designations). Both Pro and Co-angler competitors are required to download, keep active and use the Fishing Chaos Platform during all NWT events for registration, tournament operations and in-competition catch/weight reporting. All registrations, payments and primary communications will take place through this app. (See Rule 2 and Rule 12).

These rules exist to keep competition fair, protect angler safety, and support the professionalism our competitors already bring to the sport. We ask every contestant to know and follow them closely so that every event runs smoothly for the whole field. Additionally, it is suggested that co-anglers help share fuel expenses each day of competition to help offset the high cost of boat operation. NWT also recommends the use of livewell additives to help promote the healthy release of fish. In the event of an emergency, please call 911 first and then notify the tournament director as soon as possible.

ADVANCE NOTICE — COMING IN 2028

The 2027 NWT Professional field will carry forward intact into the 2028 season. Anglers who accept a 2027 Professional invitation and remain in good standing are guaranteed entry into both the 2027 and 2028 NWT seasons with no requalification required.

Beginning in 2028, NWT will introduce a new **Walleye Open** event as an additional qualifying pathway to feed new anglers into the NWT Professional division. Full details on the Walleye Open format, schedule and qualification criteria will be announced separately as they are finalized.

2027 NWT PROFESSIONAL FIELD

The 2027 Professional field will consist of **100 anglers**, qualifying and invited as follows:

- **80 anglers** — Top 80 from the 2026 NWT Progressive Angler of the Year (AOY) Pro standings.
- **10 anglers** — 5 full teams (10 individual anglers) qualifying through the Masters Walleye Circuit (MWC) Team of the Year (TOY) final standings.
- **5 anglers** — Top 5 finishers in the 2026 Co-Angler Progressive AOY standings, each given the option to advance to the Professional division. Should any of these 5 decline, the resulting spot(s) will be filled by Outdoors Team Works, LLC. (OTW), Bass Pro Shops (BPS) and WRMG.
- **5 anglers** — At-large invitations awarded by Outdoors Team Works, LLC. (OTW), Bass Pro Shops (BPS) and WRMG to complete the field.

This structure fully supersedes and replaces the 2027 invitation format previously published in the 2026 NWT Rules. NWT reserves the right to add additional Professional invitations of any kind, to any event, as it deems appropriate.

Double-qualified anglers — An angler who qualifies through more than one pathway will hold one (1) spot only. Any resulting open spot will be filled by continuing down the 2026 NWT Progressive AOY Pro standings to the next eligible angler who fished all four (4) 2026 events. Official invitations will be issued when the 2027 schedule is released.

Discretionary and at-large invitations are owned and awarded by Outdoors Team Works. Once the field is established, the Tournament Director is responsible for enforcing eligibility and all other rules of competition.

Anglers wishing to apply to compete in NWT who have not otherwise qualified through the pathways above are welcome to reach out to NWT directly at info@nationalwalleyetour.com. All such requests will be reviewed by Outdoors Team Works, LLC., Bass Pro Shops and WRMG.

All anglers who accept an invitation into the 2027 Professional field will receive guaranteed entry for both the 2027 and 2028 NWT seasons (see Advance Notice above).

Invited Professionals must fish all four (4) 2027 qualifying events to retain eligibility, priority status and AOY standing, except as otherwise addressed under the blow day provisions and the Documented Emergency Exception below.

Documented Emergency Exception

We understand that serious medical situations and family emergencies happen, and we don't want a competitor to lose their place in the field over something outside their control.

A Professional who misses a qualifying event due to a documented medical or family emergency may retain their 2027 eligibility and their 2028 guaranteed entry, provided that:

- The angler submits an official letter documenting the emergency to the Tournament Director.
- The request is reviewed and approved by both the Tournament Director and Outdoors Team Works, LLC.
- **The angler pays the full entry fee for the missed event to hold their spot in the field.** Entry fees remain non-refundable and non-transferable.

An angler granted this exception will receive zero (0) AOY points for the missed event. All other standings, tie-breakers and Championship qualification criteria apply as normal.

2027 CO-ANGLER FIELD & PRIORITY REGISTRATION

The Co-angler field is open registration and is not invitation-based. Priority registration for 2027 will be offered in the following order:

- **First priority** — Any Co-angler signing up for all four (4) regular season events.
- **Open registration** — Beginning December 16, 2026, single-event Co-angler registration will open to the general public for any remaining spots.

2027 Registration Timeline

- **December 2, 2026** — Pro Angler registration opens; deposit and membership fee are due. Balance invoice sent once the deposit is paid.
- **December 2, 2026** — Co-Angler All-In registration opens; full season amount and membership fee are due.
- **December 16, 2026** — Pro Angler and All-In Co-Angler priority registration closes.
- **December 16, 2026** — Co-Angler single-event registration opens for remaining spots.
- **February 1, 2027** — Remaining Pro balance due. Invoices for the balance are sent once the deposit is paid.

See Rule 3 for entry fee structure and payment details.

2027 NWT SCHEDULE & BAIT DESIGNATIONS

The 2027 NWT season will use a split bait format, with bait rules set by event. Key registration and tournament dates are as follows:

Tournament Schedule

- **Stop 1: Bull Shoals, AR** — March 11–12, 2027 — Live Bait Permitted
- **Stop 2: Mississippi River,** — May 13–14, 2027 — Artificial Lures Only
- **Stop 3: Saginaw Bay** — June 10–11, 2027 — Artificial Lures Only
- **Stop 4: Leech Lake** — August 20–21, 2027 — Live Bait Permitted
- **NWT Championship, Lake of the Woods** — Bait designation will be set by coin flip for each competition day (Day One, Day Two and Championship Day). The coin flip will be conducted at Registration by the Tournament Director.

Off-limits windows and fact sheets will be published prior to registration open. See Rule 7 for bait requirements.

1. Official Rules, Safety Regulations, Interpretation & Enforcement

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director whose decisions are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

All participants are expected to know the complete rules and regulations, understand them, and help in the marshaling of the field. All participants agree to report any rule violation directly to the tournament director immediately upon discovery, as this helps keep competition fair for everyone. Please always check each specific event's fact sheet for that event's restrictions or details.

Each participant is responsible for knowing the applicable state laws and regulations that cover the waters they intend to fish, whether in a tournament or not. Entering a competitive event does not change the legal requirement to know and understand those laws and regulations, so please familiarize yourself with them before each event.

Weigh-In Attestation

By presenting fish for weigh-in, each angler is affirming that they competed fairly, within these rules, and within all applicable state and federal law for that day of competition. Presenting a catch is your statement that everything you did that day was done legally. If it is later

determined that an angler broke a rule, that angler remains fully subject to penalty and liability under these rules regardless of when the violation is discovered.

In the event of a rule violation, officials may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate including but not limited to: fines, forfeiture of cash, awards, prizes, points, weight or eligibility, in all or in part, by fish, by day or overall, disqualification of a day's catch or total catch, prohibition from future participation, or any other punishment befitting the violation as determined and applied solely by the Tournament Director.

2. Participation, Eligibility & Payback

As a requirement of participation, all Professional AND Co-angler competitors are required to download, use and keep active the NWT Fishing Chaos Platform from event check-in until the event is completed. Opting in to NWT communications (app, text and/or email) through the Fishing Chaos Platform is mandatory for all participants; anglers may not opt out of tournament communications. Full details on the platform's use and capabilities will be outlined at each event's mandatory rules briefing.

Payback includes cash and prizes and is based, in part, on the number of paid entries at each event. **The annual NWT membership fee is $50.** All anglers MUST pay the membership fee to join the NWT Club before they can register for the season; the membership fee is due at the time of registration. Memberships are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Participation is open only to members of NWT who are 16 years of age or older. Any person under the age of 18 (19 in AL, NE) must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the liability release.

A completed IRS Form W-9 (and banking information, if paying out by direct deposit) must be on file before any entry can be confirmed. This information helps ensure a smooth, on-time payout for every angler.

Each participant must complete, agree to and submit an official entry form with payment by the due dates. During any official tournament days, no contestant may use a boat unless they have documented proof of insurance coverage that includes property damage, excess medical, watercraft liability and/or contractors' insurance having reasonable limits. Said insurance must cover any and all injury and/or damage incurred in connection with the event. Proof of satisfactory coverage must be immediately available upon request. Random checks may be conducted.

To ensure effective and timely communication between NWT and the anglers, each angler must provide NWT with their primary cell phone number, primary email address and home phone number (if applicable). Tournament communications will also be shared to anglers via text and push notifications in the NWT event page on the Fishing Chaos Platform. Anglers' contact information can be updated on the Fishing Chaos Platform in their profile and it is the participant's responsibility to make sure NWT has the most up-to-date contact information. Participant cell phones must be able to receive text messages from NWT or push notifications through the Fishing Chaos Platform.

NWT reserves the right to refuse participation (including championships) to anyone for any reason including, but not limited to, suspension, disqualification or banning from this or other events, criminal behavior, felony convictions, or any unsportsmanlike behavior that would reflect

dishonorably on our sport. All contestants must have a valid fishing license, produce it upon request and follow all state and federal regulations for the waters they fish.

Payout Method

NWT will issue payouts by direct deposit. NWT reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to issue payment by check instead in any instance where direct deposit is not feasible. All participants will be paid using the same method for consistency and administrative simplicity. Payout timing will be announced at each event's rules briefing.

3. Pro & Co-Angler Entry, Invitation Acceptance, Pairing & Fees

Correct SSN's and a completed W-9 are required at time of entry, no exceptions.

Professional Entry & Fees

Professional registration opens December 2, 2026. Invited Professional anglers must accept their invitation and submit the initial 50% deposit and the $50 NWT membership fee at registration, no later than December 16, 2026, when Pro priority registration closes. Failure to accept and pay by this date will result in forfeiture of the invitation, and the spot will be offered to the next eligible angler.

- **Per-event fee:** $2,250
- **Full season (4 events):** $9,000
- **Initial deposit (50%):** $4,500, due at registration (opens December 2, 2026; closes December 16, 2026).
- **Balance (50%):** $4,500. An invoice for the remaining balance will be sent once the deposit is paid. The balance is due no later than February 1, 2027.

Invited Professionals are required to fish all four (4) qualifying events. Entry fees are for the full season and are non-refundable and non-transferable once confirmed.

Co-Angler Entry & Fees

Co-Angler All-In registration opens December 2, 2026, and will be offered first to Co-anglers who competed in all four NWT events during the 2026 season, then to WRMG boat owners. All-In priority registration closes December 16, 2026. Single-event registration opens December 16, 2026 for remaining spots. The $50 NWT membership fee is due at registration.

- **Per-event fee:** $750
- **Co-anglers registering for all four (4) events (All-In):** full season entry fee ($3,000) plus the $50 membership fee due in full at registration. All-In registration opens December 2, 2026 and closes December 16, 2026.
- **Co-anglers registering one event at a time:** single-event registration opens December 16, 2026 for remaining spots. Full per-event fee ($750) due Friday, 2 weeks prior to that event. The $50 membership fee is due with the first event registration of the season.

NWT will turn on "Standby Status" for Co-Angler registration at any time the number of Co-angler entries reaches the projected Pro Angler entries for an event. During Standby Status, Co-anglers may continue to register and secure their place in line by time stamp, but no payment will be collected until confirmed into the event.

The NWT has sole discretion to accept entry or allow an angler to compete in any event for any reason.

There are no refunds once an entry is confirmed. Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable and cannot be moved to another event. We know circumstances come up, and this isn't a policy we enjoy holding the line on — but event costs are committed well in advance based on confirmed entries, and applying one standard to everyone is the fairest way we can run it.

Once entered into a tournament, you will immediately receive an email invoice with links to important details. Please confirm receipt of your entry, and reach out if anything looks off. Tournament officials reserve the right to shorten or extend entry deadlines at any time. **Please note: you are not confirmed into the event until you receive a separate, final confirmation notice from NWT.**

Disqualification from a tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fees. Refunds and credits are also not available to anglers who choose not to fish due to weather, mechanical issues or other circumstances. If you find yourself in that spot, you always have the option to fish close by on a kicker or trolling motor to salvage what points you can.

Pairings

The field will be evenly paired if possible. Pros and Co-anglers will be paired by random draw. Contestants are expected to compete every day they are qualified; failure to do so may result in ineligibility to compete in future NWT tournaments. All contestants or their representatives must contact their assigned partners following the pre-tournament meeting. Partners should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting time and place away from the boat ramp for the following morning's takeoff. The tournament director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to takeoff for any reason.

4. Off-Limits, Practice, Registration, Media Day & Competition

Tournament waters, tournament-related information and guiding services are off-limits beginning 14 days prior to the start of the official practice period for each event. This single 14-day window governs both on-water off-limits and the purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters (including but not limited to GPS waypoints, other than through commercially available sources).

The exact start and end dates and times of the off-limits period will be published on each event's fact sheet. It is each competitor's responsibility to check the fact sheet for the official off-limits window for that event.

Guides may not guide on tournament waters during this 14-day off-limits period, regardless of whether they are personally fishing or pre-fishing.

Following the 14-day off-limits period, the on-site schedule for each event will consist of:

- **4 days of official practice.**
- **1 registration day / media day** — no fishing.

Official practice hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Tournament officials reserve the right to extend or shorten any deadline.

Participants must stay off tournament waters before and after tournament hours except to navigate to and from the check-in site and launch facilities. If repairs and/or an equipment test-run are needed on the water without a sponsor service tech on board, an NWT official must give pre-approval before getting on the water for testing.

Qualifying events will have (2) scheduled competition days with a full field fishing both days. Pros and co-anglers fish together for a combined daily boat weight, and each will carry that weight forward. Winners are determined by heaviest cumulative weight for all days fished.

In the event of severe weather, tournament waters may be altered or restricted, or a day of competition canceled. The Tournament Director, in his sole discretion, may or may not add only one (1) blow day depending on location, permits and availability. If a blow day cannot be added, results will be based on days fished.

The championship will be a 3-day event with the full field of Pros and Co-anglers fishing all 3 days. Winners are determined by heaviest cumulative weight for all days fished. A blow day on any day will be lost and final results will be based on days fished.

Championship Pairings & Boat Order — Pros and Co-anglers will be paired by random draw on Day 1 and Day 2, with a fresh random draw for boat number and takeoff order each of those two days. On the final day, pairings will be set by Championship standings — the 1st-place Pro will fish with the 1st-place Co-angler, 2nd with 2nd, and so on in order through the full field of 40 boats. Final-day takeoff order will follow the standings, with the leading boat launching first. Championship pairings are based on Championship standings only and are not determined by Angler of the Year standings.

Information Exchange

During any competition days, anglers may not receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, nor follow a non-contestant's boat, nor participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants, nor the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. Co-anglers who share a pro partner's fishing locations with another contestant will be disqualified along with the contestant requesting and/or using the information.

During competition hours from takeoff until check-in, all on-water communication by contestants for the purposes of locating or catching fish is strictly prohibited BY ANY MEANS (excluding anglers in the same boat).

Flights (including drones) over tournament waters are not permitted during the 14-day off-limits period, other than as a ticketed passenger on a commercial airline flight.

On-Site Registration and Rules Briefing / Pairing Meeting

On-site registration/pairings/rules briefing is mandatory. Exact details are listed on each event fact sheet. Entry verification with dates, time, and location of that meeting are sent to all anglers when registered. Please follow these directions. If you do not receive this information, it is your responsibility to contact us and confirm it. Contestants not present or represented for pairings may forfeit their entry fee and not be entered in the tournament.

In a verifiable emergency, an angler MUST request permission from the tournament director to send a person 16 years of age or older to represent them. If permission is granted, non-contestants can represent one person; contestants can represent themselves and one other person. This

representative must attend the full meeting to meet your partner, exchange full contact info, and gather all details (flights, takeoff/check-in times, boat #, off-limits, size & creel limits, and exact location to meet prior to takeoff). Any contestant who does not attend in person or uses a representative gives up any claims of lack of knowledge on any subject or rule. Otherwise, if an angler (or pre-approved representative) arrives 15 minutes or more late without approval, they will be removed from the event and forfeit all entry fees.

5. Safety

Each boat passenger must wear a US Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver, fully zippered, strapped and snapped securely anytime the boat is on plane. Inflatable PFD indicators should be checked daily. Inflatable PFDs are allowed if U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. Depending on the type and model of inflatable, the Coast Guard requires that inflatable PFDs always be worn to be counted and cannot be taken off unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard-approved PFDs on board, readily accessible. Therefore, Pros must always carry a minimum of two (2) Coast Guard-approved chest-type NON-inflatable life preservers on board to be legal in case someone in the boat takes off an inflatable PFD they are wearing, even momentarily. Federal law also requires any vessel under 26 feet to have an operational engine shut-off device attached to the driver when the vessel is on plane.

We strongly encourage every Pro angler to operate their vessel responsibly for the conditions, allow plenty of travel time, and slow down. Please never run your vessel in conditions you feel are unsafe — you are in the best position to make that call, and you are always responsible for the safe operation of your vessel.

Officials may restrict or alter tournament waters and reserve the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. In the event of lightning, severe weather, limited visibility 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. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer if required. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Changing or altering standard factory motor parts to increase horsepower over factory-rated horsepower is forbidden. Each contestant agrees to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection, if requested by NWT.

At the sole discretion of the tournament director, tournament days or waters may be altered, shortened, moved, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather, water or other concerns/conditions.

6. Sportsmanship & Code of Conduct

All participants will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner, always maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with staff, anglers and officials. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a participant in our efforts to promote sportsmanship, clean waters and conservation can be grounds for fines or disqualification. Every competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field to help maintain the highest integrity of competition. Use of or possession in the boat of alcohol or marijuana/cannabis products

("medical" or otherwise) or any mind-altering drugs by any participant during the official event or tournament days, or in our weigh-in process area, and/or any use by the final day designated "leaders" until any polygraph examinations are complete, is not permitted and will be cause for disqualification. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported directly to the Tournament Director for investigation. Any violation of these basic sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

Angler Code of Conduct

NWT anglers represent our sport well, and we hold high expectations for how competitors treat each other, our staff, and the public. The following code of conduct applies to everyone participating in an NWT event.

ALL anglers participating in any NWT event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of Angler of the Year points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual NWT-sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any penalty combination deemed appropriate by NWT Officials.

Raising a concern, asking a question or respectfully disagreeing with an official or a ruling is not a violation of this code. What is not acceptable is conduct that is abusive, threatening, disruptive or knowingly false.

Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: use of foul language or inappropriate messaging in the weigh-in area, line, on camera, on stage or in view of the public; heated public disagreements with NWT officials, other competitors, fans or volunteers during an event; public statements an angler knows, or should reasonably know, to be false regarding the integrity of NWT, NWT rules or officials; public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of NWT, NWT officials or its sponsors or other NWT anglers; displays of anger and/or displeasure where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present; abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with an NWT event; offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones; and intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.

When an NWT angler is found to have violated the Angler Code of Conduct, the following escalating scale of fines will be imposed, in addition to any other penalties deemed appropriate by NWT:

- **First offense:** Not less than $250 nor more than $2,500.
- **Second offense:** Not less than $1,000 nor more than $2,500.
- **Third offense:** Not less than $2,500 nor more than $10,000.
- **Fourth offense:** Unlimited, including fines and possible suspension or ban from NWT events.

The numbers of offenses above refer to violations over the course of an angler's career. Code of Conduct violations expire 5 years from the last recorded violation date. NWT reserves the right to automatically withhold any fines from any payouts due. Otherwise, non-payment will prevent the angler from fishing another NWT event until payment is paid in full within 30 days or before entry into the next NWT event, whichever is first.

Co-Angler Obligations

Co-Anglers are required to have full knowledge of the rules and regulations covering the body of water just as Pros are, and will also serve as marshals in the field. Any rules violation must be immediately reported to the tournament director. Pros and Co-Anglers are to be honest and timely with catch and weight reports.

Co-Anglers are allowed to carry still cameras and personal smartphones/tablets. Co-angler photos/videos should be discussed with pro partners regarding backgrounds, landmarks, and their permission to post their likeness from the water, etc. Co-Anglers may be asked to text catch reports, pictures or other data to NWT tournament officials from their personal cell phones. Co-Anglers are not allowed to text information to anyone other than NWT official channels or tournament staff, unless in an emergency. Registered Co-Anglers are highly encouraged to bring a personal PFD to each event to ensure proper fit meeting the guidelines in Rule 5 above.

Permitted Use of Phones and Electronic Devices

To keep enforcement consistent for everyone, the following is the complete list of permitted uses of a cell phone or personal electronic device during competition hours. All uses are permitted for both Pros and Co-anglers unless otherwise noted:

- **Catch/weight reporting** through the Fishing Chaos Platform, as described in Rule 12.
- **Media output** by Pro competitors — live streaming, photos or video to a public social media channel, as described and limited in Rule 17. Media output devices may not be used to browse for or consume information about locating or catching fish.
- **Emergencies** of any kind.
- **Communication with lockmasters or tournament officials.**
- **Any other use specifically authorized in advance by tournament officials.**

Any other use of a phone or electronic device during competition hours is prohibited. Co-angler recording of GPS waypoints or use of any type of handheld GPS during a competition day remains prohibited.

7. Tackle, Equipment, Inspections, Permits, Bait & Legally Hooked Fish

Participants must possess all necessary fishing licenses, permits, and required AIS inspections if required by law. All tournament boats must be cleaned of all harmful exotic aquatic species — CLEAN, DRAINED and DRY — prior to entering the water and upon departure from tournament waters. All anglers must commit to following all regulations. All state rules regarding fishing and boating will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting.

No more than two fishing rods with one lure each, or one fishing rod with two lures, per angler may be used at a time unless the state or lake limit is more restrictive, in which case the state or lake limit will prevail. Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line with the lure in the water.

Bait — Event-Specific Designations

Bait rules for 2027 are set by event (see 2027 NWT Schedule & Bait Designations). At events designated **Artificial Lures Only**, live bait and dead/natural bait of any kind (including but not limited to live or dead minnows, shiners, nightcrawlers, leeches, cut bait or any other natural bait, whether fresh, frozen, salted or otherwise preserved) are prohibited. At events designated **Live Bait**

Permitted, live bait may be used, provided it is legally obtained, transported and used in accordance with all applicable state laws, including invasive species and bait transport regulations.

Scented soft plastic baits and manufactured attractants (e.g., scented or gel-infused soft plastics) are legal at all events. Penalty for a bait violation is subject to the sole discretion of the Tournament Director and NWT, consistent with Rule 1.

All fish must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner as defined by state statute or by tournament officials. Trolling as a method of fishing is permitted. Any fish accidentally "foul hooked" must be immediately released. "Foul hooked" is defined as any fish accidentally hooked where the only embedded hook(s) is located anywhere behind the opening of the gill plate, unless state law is more restrictive, in which case state law will apply. Any fish that is "visible to and specifically being targeted by" an angler (with or without the use of electronics) must be verified by the other partner in the boat that the fish was not foul hooked before being unhooked to be counted as a legal catch.

It is 100% each Pro angler's and each Co-angler's responsibility to know the applicable states' laws that cover the waters they are going to fish, whether they are entered in a tournament or not. An event official or NWT-approved person may approach or board your boat at any time for any reason. Refusal to allow an approved official on board, or any effort to impede their work, may result in disqualification.

8. Boat/Motor, Electronics, Safety Equipment, Operation and Procedures

Forward-facing sonar (e.g., LiveScope-type technology) remains fully legal electronic equipment at all NWT events and at the Championship, with no restrictions for 2027.

Each boat MUST be given, prior to the start of each day, a livewell and safety inspection check by officials, and will be issued a boat number marker at launch, which MUST remain in the boat and be turned in during check-in at the end of each day. NWT reserves sole discretion to assign boat numbers in any manner.

There shall be one official safety checkpoint for checkout in the morning / check-in in the afternoon. At the time of checkout/check-in, all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all rules set forth by officials. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to the check-in official and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. All competitors must check in and complete their daily verification affidavit each day, even if they did not weigh any fish. Missing boat checkout in the morning or check-in in the afternoon will result in disqualification for that day. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. As the captain/operator of a vessel, the Pro angler is solely responsible for the safe operation of it and for the safety of all occupants at all times. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times. All participants are required to wear a Coast Guard-approved type III or greater chest-type personal floatation device anytime the boat is on plane (see Rule 5).

Pros must provide all presentation equipment such as downriggers, planer boards, side planers, rods, reels, bait, line and terminal tackle for their own use and the use of their co-angler partners. With the exception of two rods and reels, co-anglers are not permitted to bring tackle into their pro's boat without permission from the pro. We recommend that all participants successfully complete a boating safety course endorsed by NASBLA. All tournament boats are required to have in their

possession all Coast Guard-required safety equipment, including but not limited to approved chest-type personal flotation devices, a type IV throw cushion, fire extinguisher, and distress horn/flag/whistle. Great Lakes and some other navigable waters require flares. All boats are required to have a functioning bilge pump, and federal law requires any vessel under 26 feet to have an operational engine shut-off device attached to the driver when the vessel is on plane.

A driver must be seated behind the steering wheel or at the tiller and in full control of the boat whenever the primary combustion engine is in operation and in gear. A marine band radio is required. All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length, equipped with wheel or tiller steering. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted unless being used as an adaptive device. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of fish.

Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competitions. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Optional remote engine fuel tanks must be factory- or factory-authorized-dealer installed and strapped or otherwise secured. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

9. Permitted Fishing Locations

Tournament waters shall be established for each event. Each competitor must obtain this information from NWT.

All NWT events will be US waters ONLY. Canadian waters are entirely off-limits. NWT anglers may not fish in Canadian waters and may not enter or traverse Canadian waters at any time during the off-limits period, official practice or competition days, for any reason. Any additional boundaries or known restricted zones will be listed on the event fact sheet and/or announced at the mandatory rules briefing and may be further altered if needed.

Otherwise, contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas posted or otherwise designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," or "no fishing" by NWT, local, state or federal officials, or within a contestant's first-marked fishing area. A "marked fishing area" is defined as a 50-foot diameter area around a marker buoy first placed by the contestant on the same day of competition. The contestant placing the buoy must remain within the marked area and may leave only to play and land a fish. When limited out or not fishing, the buoy must be picked up.

No contestant may "buy" or "barter" a fish or a fishing location. Only water open to ALL public fishing, accessible by boat from the tournament check-out point, will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to tournament contestants. All fishing 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 check-in by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in without the direct permission/instruction of the tournament director.

Any live release area established by the Tournament Director will be off-limits and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of the pre-tournament meeting, and/or the removal of official local, state or federal barricades or property at any time to make an area more accessible by boat, is strictly prohibited and may result in

disqualification. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block-and-tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.

10. Contestants Must Remain Together

Both Pro and Co-anglers paired together must remain within sight of each other and must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or for the momentary need for a restroom break, at which time all fishing must cease until anglers are back together if they wish their fish to be counted for the day. In the event of an emergency, the contestant MUST call 911 first and notify the Tournament Director as soon as possible.

There are only two permitted methods of returning to check-in: (1) by both anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water by another contestant or a designated rescue boat; or (2) by one angler transferring the clearly marked fish to another boat and proceeding directly to the weigh-in. Only under these two conditions will a contestant's catches be counted. Contestants who elect to return to check-in by any other means will forfeit their day's catch to that point in the tournament day. No one in a tow, ride-in or rescue boat is allowed to fish until after proceeding directly to the weigh-in site and all parties communicating directly with tournament officials.

Both parties (the team with trouble and the team lending assistance) should file separate incident reports with tournament officials. Any angler(s) involved in a breakdown "ride-in" that involves transferring fish, in which an angler involved wins/places high in that event, in the Tournament Officials' sole opinion, will be asked to complete a polygraph examination. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or designated official. It is each contestant's sole responsibility to locate the tournament director to request a restart.

11. Late Penalty

It is each angler's responsibility to check in on time, in person, directly with the timekeeper at the safety check-in point — you are not checked in until that direct contact is made. Contestants who check in after their scheduled time are penalized 1 pound per minute for each minute late, and anyone more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

Late check-ins cannot be made up after the fact, so please plan ahead: know what time you are due in, and leave yourself enough travel time to check in safely, even if there is a line or extra boat traffic on the water.

12. Scoring & Catch/Weight Reporting

Scoring is determined by the combined weight of both contestants' catch, measured in pounds and hundredths of a pound (0.00 lb). Pro and Co-anglers fish together for a combined daily boat weight, and each carries that weight forward.

Catch/Weight Reporting

NWT asks every boat to report catch/weight information through the Fishing Chaos Platform as conditions reasonably allow, so we can run live tracking and a real-time leaderboard for the fans following along. One report per boat per fish is requested, submitted as soon as practical

after each keeper fish is boated or culled. Either the Pro or the Co-angler in the boat may submit the report.

We know cell coverage, rough water and active fish handling can all get in the way, and no angler will be penalized for a connectivity issue, app failure or conditions that make reporting impractical or unsafe. Safety and safe boat operation always come first. NWT may offer contingency prizes tied to consistent reporting; details will be announced at each event's rules briefing.

Walleye, sauger and saugeye will be weighed where permissible by permit or by state law. Species, length limits and bag limits of eligible fish will be set, listed on each event's fact sheet and announced prior to the start of each event.

The weigh-in limit will be five fish per boat unless the limit set by the tournament director or state or lake limit is less than five, in which case the limit listed on that event's fact sheet will prevail. Any extra fish in possession (if allowed by rule) may NOT be brought to the bump tank. All fish weighed must be kept in aerated livewells to keep fish alive and as fresh as possible for release. Any fish mauled, mashed, frozen, stringered, containing foreign or unnaturally placed matter to add weight, or showing white gills, soft flesh or other signs of decomposition, in the tournament official's sole discretion, will result in disqualification. All balancing weights, markers, buoys or attachments must be removed before fish are presented at the bump tank. Any attachments in the bump sink will result in a 1.00 lb penalty. In the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, officials shall cull, starting with the largest fish first, down to the event's stated limit.

Fish will be measured by a tournament official with the fish's mouth closed and longest straight line. Only fish which measure the official length(s) shall be weighed in.

Any fish presented for weigh-in which fails to measure the official length limits shall accrue a penalty of **1.00 lb** for each non-legal fish, plus loss of that fish. Once a competitor's catch has been presented to officials, they may not add to, take away from or alter their catch in any way, or return to their boat until that catch has been recorded. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh bag.

13. Catch & Release

A **0.50 lb** deduction will be made for each legal fish presented to the bump master for weighing that is determined to be dead. Every boat must have adequate livewell space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition, a limit catch by competitors using the boat. NWT recommends the use of livewell additive and ice, in warmer water months, to improve oxygen levels and promote a healthy release of fish into natural habitat. Tournament Officials shall have sole responsibility for assessing any penalty points or for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate."

14. Ties & Point Standings

Tie breakers are as follows: 1.) Most number of legal fish weighed; 2.) Most number of legal fish weighed alive; 3.) Heaviest single day's catch; 4.) Second heaviest single day's catch; 5.) Means selected by tournament director. However, no cash awards will be given to any zero weights. Ties for AOY will be broken by total weight for all 4 regular season tournaments combined, then number of

fish for the year, number of live fish for the year, heaviest single day's catch, second heaviest single day's catch, and means selected by tournament director.

Point Standings — 100 points are awarded to the winner of each qualifying tournament, 99 to 2nd, 98 to 3rd, 97 to 4th, and so on down the field. All anglers who receive weight credit will receive points. The top 40 pros and top 40 co-anglers from the final point standings qualify for the Championship. If the pro-angler and co-angler field is not even, NWT will continue down the points list until there is a full field of 40 boats.

The same 100-point scale is used at the Championship. Because the Championship field is 40 boats, points there run from 100 for 1st place down through 40th place.

Qualifying Tournament Winners — Once the above field of 40 is set, NWT may, at its sole discretion, add any NWT Pro or Co who wins a qualifying event during the season to that Championship field, if a.) they are not already qualified and in it, and b.) as long as that angler actually fished all days of all four regular season events. NWT will then pull up the next-highest angler in the pro/co standings to even the field if needed.

The NWT Championship will be a NO entry fee event for NWT Pro-Anglers. Championship Co-Anglers will pay an entry fee of $750.

Angler of the Year Points — Pro & Co-Anglers — All 5 scores, minus any score penalties applied (4 qualifier points and the championship points), from a season will combine to award the AOY prizes.

15. Protests & Truth Verification Tests

Random truth verification tests will be administered throughout the season to help protect the integrity of competition for every angler in the field. Tests may also be requested by tournament officials at any time, including after an event has concluded, so that any question that comes up can be reviewed fully and fairly. We appreciate your cooperation — this process exists to protect the anglers who compete the right way.

Refusal to submit to a requested truth verification test, or failure to pass one, will result in disqualification. In addition to disqualification, NWT may apply any further penalty it deems appropriate, including fines and the forfeiture or return of any winnings, prizes or awards already paid.

Other rules violations — including but not limited to culling violations, safety violations and late arrival to a mandatory meeting — may result in point reductions, fines, penalty time or other sanctions as determined by the Tournament Director.

Reporting a Violation vs. Filing a Protest

These are two separate obligations, and both matter:

- **Reporting —** All contestants agree to report any rule violation directly to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery. Failure to report a known violation immediately is itself a rules violation and may be cause for penalty.
- **Filing a formal protest —** An official protest must be made in writing directly to the Tournament Director within one (1) hour of the final fish being weighed that day.

NWT's Authority to Act at Any Time

The one-hour protest window applies to an angler filing a formal protest. It does not limit NWT.

Tournament officials, in their sole discretion, reserve the right to consider rule violations discovered at any time, for any reason, by any person, before or after a tournament has ended — including information that comes to light through media or television footage, published articles, state or federal agency investigations, or any other source. NWT may investigate and assess penalties for any past or future event, including point reductions, fines, forfeiture of winnings where recoverable, and denial of entry into future NWT events.

If a protest is found valid, the disqualified party may be required to pay all investigative costs. Following interviews with concerned parties or truth verification testing, if required, a final ruling will be made. In the event rules infractions occur, a penalty of the tournament officials' choosing may be applied, and cash, prizes and awards must be returned if requested.

Each participant agrees, with submission of their entry form and by their participation in the event, to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analyzer test or Truth Verification Test, should they be asked to for any reason, and to abide by its conclusion. Tournament officials shall have sole discretion to select scope, when, where and who shall administer such an exam. Participants will make themselves available at their own expense for testing as scheduled.

16. Insurance

Liability insurance with coverage of not less than $300,000 per occurrence is required of all pro contestants in NWT tournaments. The Pro angler is always solely responsible for the safe operation of the vessel, and responsible for the safety of any passengers aboard. Said insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer and must cover all injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this tournament and cover the dates of the event(s). Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.

17. Media Coverage

Contestants are required to truthfully and honestly comply with all Official NWT requests for media production (including but not limited to video, still camera, GPS tracking, access to boats, access to fishing area, apps that can track you and/or your progress throughout the day, or to run real-time live leaderboards) made by NWT staff or Official NWT film crew throughout events. Official NWT cameras or film crews are the same as tournament officials; competitors will treat them as such. NWT camera crews are allowed to move in and out of your boats at any time and track you via GPS, etc. Refusing their requests is no different than refusing a polygraph test or an official NWT observer. Failure to coordinate with and accommodate Official NWT media needs will result in disqualification of that and possibly future events.

Anglers may not refuse official NWT media access for any reason. Media coverage is what drives the value this series returns to its anglers and its partners, and access is a condition of competing. Any question or concern regarding an official media crew, including any concern about conditions in the boat, will be decided by the Tournament Director and Outdoors Team Works, LLC. — not by the angler.

Outdoor Team Works is the owner of all NWT events and holds the content rights to all photos and videos (live or recorded) captured at any NWT event, both on and off the water. During NWT events, NWT may require use of an official app, updates from the water, or a mounted camera in a participant's boat. These are not optional. The media and data collected would be used at NWT's sole discretion for any purpose. All NWT Anglers are required to comply, even if the NWT Angler already has a personal camera mounted in their boat. Refusing to comply may result in a penalty. In-boat NWT Officials and camera operators will be allowed to operate these cameras.

Pro Competitor Media Output

NWT Pro competitors are allowed to output live stream, photos or video on all official tournament days to the public social media channel of their choice (Facebook, YouTube, etc.). No websites are allowed. Competitors MUST notify NWT at registration check-in the night before the event begins that they will be streaming live or posting, and approximately what times/days. Competitors should make every effort NOT to show any other NWT competitors on the water or their boats on their live stream, as they do not have permission to do so. Competitors are allowed to start a live stream at takeoff and can stream all day until boat check-in, at which time the live stream must end. If the stream drops, competitors may access their social media account briefly, reconnect quickly to restart the live stream, and immediately leave social media.

Media Output devices may NOT be used to browse for or consume information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters — media output only. Outside of this Media Output privilege and the catch/weight reporting described in Rule 12, communication devices remain strictly prohibited for any purpose related to locating or catching fish on tournament waters, and may only be used in an emergency or to communicate with lockmasters or tournament officials, consistent with Rule 6. Be advised: the person streaming the video, as well as any offender, is responsible for any foul language or actions that would reflect poorly on NWT, and may be subject to penalty at the Tournament Director's sole discretion.

Third-Party Media Crews

Third-party media crews or camera persons who are not official NWT Media/Camera persons MUST gain approval and permission from the tournament director well before each event to gain approved media access and get event-specific instructions before getting on the water to film NWT anglers on practice or tournament days. **All third-party media access requests should be submitted to info@nationalwalleyetour.com or directly to Tournament Director Eric Naig at ericnaig@bigeeefishing.com.** Any angler(s) who have arranged their own personal media or camera operators must also gain the tournament director's permission before beginning at each event. No approved 3rd-party media or camera operators may film or use drone footage of or over any other general NWT competitors except as defined herein, and must pull off the NWT angler they are filming and clear the way if an official NWT camera boat shows up at any time. Raw, non-public footage acquired by a 3rd-party camera/media person that could assist anyone in catching a fish or finding a fishing location may not be viewed by or discussed with any NWT anglers in any form until the event is completely over. 3rd-party crews CAN post media during the day to free, public-facing social media sites open to the general public. If a 3rd-party media person believes they have witnessed a rules violation, they must immediately report it directly to the tournament director.

Anyone given permission to fly a drone at a specific event by tournament officials must be a federally licensed operator and have all required permits/permissions for the area. Drones are, by default, prohibited except by Official NWT Camera/Media persons during tournament competition hours. Any

approved 3rd-party drone flights may not show NWT anglers or their boats in such a way as to personally identify them during practice days or the tournament unless they have given express permission to do so.

Personal media representatives, once approved by the Tournament Director at each single event, are permitted inside an angler's boat during practice only, and are not permitted in an angler's boat at any time during competition days, nor allowed to provide anglers with ANY information about anyone catching or locating fish during competition days at any time. All NWT Anglers will be required to sign/acknowledge that they have read, understand and will adhere to these rules when they register for the event and again by their presence at the event.

18. Awards

Participants are responsible for all applicable taxes on all cash and prizes.

19. Captions

The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.

National Walleye Tour — follow all the action live at NationalWalleyeTour.com

General Questions? info@nationalwalleyetour.com

Rules questions — Tournament Director Eric Naig | Phone: 218-766-8721 | Email: ericnaig@bigeeefishing.com

PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY — READ BEFORE PARTICIPATING / AGREEING / SIGNING

List Everyone In The Boat By Name

I/We, _____ in consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in ANY event(s) or related activities conducted by but not limited to: Outdoors Team Works, LLC., National Walleye Tour, Careco TV, Careco Multimedia, and all other affiliated organizations or sponsors either jointly or separately.

I/WE agree to receive event communications through the Fishing Chaos Platform, apps, text messages or email blasts, and I understand that participation in tournament communications is mandatory and that I may not opt out of them. I understand these communications may include information affecting my safety or my ability to compete.

I/WE acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that: the risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist. If you have significant medical conditions, you should consider not participating in the event. I/WE have been advised by the event organizers and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document.

I VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO PARTICIPATE, AND KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ORGANIZERS and/or their officers, officials, directors, shareholders, agents, and/or employees, other participants, and sponsoring agencies/advertisers, their parent and affiliate companies and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises and property used to conduct the event, or any others connected to the event (collectively "RELEASEES"), AND I HEREBY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION. I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual or significant hazard during my presence, I will remove myself from participation until it is safe to continue.

I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS "RELEASEES", with respect to any and all damage, injury, disability, death, or loss to person or property, which I suffer or which I am found to have caused in whole or in part by my negligence or intentional misconduct or whether arising from the negligence of the RELEASEES, to the fullest extent of the law.

By presenting fish for weigh-in at any NWT event, I affirm that I competed fairly, within these rules, and within all applicable state and federal law for that day of competition. I understand that if it is later determined that I broke a rule, I remain fully subject to penalty and liability under these rules regardless of when that violation is discovered.

I agree to submit, by agreeing to this document and by my participation in the event, to a truth verification test, and to abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at the organizer's sole discretion and administered by its agents. I understand that failure to pass the exam as determined by the event organizers will result in disqualification. I also certify that the number given on all forms is my correct and unique taxpayer identification number.

If I am an equipment or boat operator, I understand that as the captain/operator of a vessel or any piece of equipment, I am solely responsible for the safe operation of it and for the safety of any and all occupants in it at all times. I expressly assume all risks associated with the event. If I am using a boat during the allowed practice or the event, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage, excess medical, watercraft liability and/or contractors' insurance having reasonable limits as defined in the rules. Said insurance must cover any and all injury and/or damage incurred in connection with the event. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. If I am participating in a youth event of any kind, I certify that training compliant with the Youth Safe Sports Act of 2017 has been made available to me this year.

I hereby waive my rights of privacy or publicity free and clear of any claims whatsoever on the participant's part with regard to the event organizers' unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same, through any media, medium, format or productions by the event organizers, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere, at any time. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties, payments or other compensation in connection with such use. I further agree that event officials' decisions will be final and binding. I understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever. Having fully acquainted myself with the rules and this agreement, I agree to be bound by them. I have agreed to this contract either physically, digitally or by my participation in the event. I acknowledge this document has been made available to me multiple times, I understand it and agree to enter knowingly and voluntarily.

Boat Captain — Dated _____ Age __ Signed _____

Angler B — Dated _____ Age __ Signed _____

SUB/PARTICIPANT (if required) — Dated _____ Age __ Signed _____

Parents/Guardians of Minority Age Participants

As parent/guardian with legal responsibility for a minor participant, I do consent and agree to their release as defined above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's participation, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE of the Releasees, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Parent/Guardian's Phone #(s): _____ Date: _____ Signature X: _____