**WALLEYES UNLIMITED GLASGOW / FORT PECK CHAPTER**

**LADIES’ WALLEYE TOURNAMENT RULES:**

**July 27, 2024**

1. **ELIGIBILITY**. The entry fee is $100.00 per team. No more than 75 teams may fish the tournament. Walleyes Unlimited membership is encouraged. LATE entry after 7/20/24 (application form AND fees) will be $125 per team. All entries must be in no later than Thursday 7/25/24. There will be no refunds 1 week prior to the tournament.
2. **RULES MEETING**: Is mandatory for at least 1 team member to attend the rules meeting on the evening prior to the tournament. The meeting is at 6:30 pm at the Fort Peck Hotel.
3. **TEAMS.** Participants must enter as 2 ladies per team (1 at least 18 years of age) with a navigator (optional). The navigator of the boat can assist with maintenance of a fish once it is in the boat.
4. **GENERAL**. Total weight for the tournament will consist of Walleye ONLY (NO Sauger).
5. **REGULATIONS.** Each participant must have a current Montana fishing license. All MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks rules apply. Each female participant can operate 2 fishing rods.
6. **BOUNDERIES.** Fishing will be allowed only within the boundaries of the tournament area as described on a map which will be provided to each team. Participants may not leave their boat at any time (except as allowed by specific permission of tournament officials or in the event of lightning or wind that poses a significant threat to personal safety). There will be designated patrol boats where you can take your fish to be measured. The location of these boats will be given to you at the rules meeting.
7. **FOUL WEATHER:** The tournament committee reserves the right to postpone or cancel daily competition: if in the opinion of the committee, weather conditions exist that pose a threat to the safety of teams and tournament personnel. Sunday will be used as a makeup day if Saturday is cancelled.
8. **HOURS.** Tournament hours are 7a.m. to 3 p.m. CHECK-IN IS MANDATORY: BOATS MUST CHECK IN AT THE PATROL BOAT LOCATED AT THE FORT PECK MARINA) NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. **SCORE CARDS MUST BE TURNED IN BY 3:30 P.M.** at the Fort Peck Marina boat ramp dock or your team will be disqualified.
9. **INSPECTION**. Boats will be inspected prior to launching. All boats in the tournament must display identifying marks and/or numbers as provided by the tournament committee.
10. **TACKLE**. Live bait cannot be transported from out of state.
11. **BOAT OPERATION**. Each participant is required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) when the primary motor is in operation (except when trolling). All teams must depart by boat from the Fort Peck Marina under the direction of the tournament officials. The orders of departure will be in numerical order according to team registration. Team boats must maintain a minimum distance of 20 yards except for official patrol boats.
12. **FISHING.** The tournament will be operated as a “catch and release” format. Fish (walleye only) must be measured at patrol boats. There is no limit on the number of fish a team may have measured and released. However, only the largest five (5) walleye per team will count toward the team’s overall score. Walleye must be a minimum of 14 inches to be counted. Fish length will be recorded, and the fish released if alive and in releasable condition. All measurement records are to be INITIALED by tournament officials and a team member. Score cards that are turned in without proper initials will be disqualified. Dead or un-releasable walleye must be recorded and tagged at a patrol/weigh boat, and they will count toward the team’s five (5) walleye limit with a score of zero weight. Any team caught releasing dead fish or fish that will not survive will be immediately disqualified. One “trophy” walleye over 27 inches long or longer may be tagged and kept by contestants upon request. Trophy fish must be tagged by weight boat to be counted as part of the team’s daily score, but only if the fish is otherwise releasable. Tagged fish must be accounted for and included in the (5) fish selected for the day’s scores. Teams will not be allowed to have more than five (5) fish in the boat at any time. The navigator may only assist with a fish once it is in the boat.
13. **SCORING.** The total measurement converted to weight of up to five (5) walleyes. No dead fish will be included in this calculation. The teams participating may be awarded cash and/or prizes.
14. **ALCOHOL.** No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the contestant boats during tournament hours.
15. **WEIGH IN:** The final weigh-ins will be conducted at the Gateway directly following tournament hours.
16. **While we do not require team members to be WUM members we do strongly encourage them to be!**

**Awards for team prizes @ GATEWAY NO EARLIER THAN 4PM**