

The Bago Walleye Club Invitational

2018 Rules & Regulations

Membership

Participation in any of The Bago Walleye Club tournaments (BWC) will require a membership fee. This fee will be \$20.00 per person or \$40.00 per team. One of the continued perks that you will receive with this year's membership will be a minimum 10% discount on most parts and accessories purchased through The Boat Doc.

I. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

A. Each team must complete, sign and submit an official BWC entry form along with payment. Membership fees must be paid with first tournament entry of the year. A team must be entered in all 4 BWC Tournaments on or before the first tournament's entry deadline in order to qualify for this season's Championship. Entries for the Championship (all 4 tournaments) can be postmarked no earlier than the 4th Monday in February and on or before the second Saturday in April. If openings still exist after the second Saturday in April teams may sign up for single tournaments. These entries must be post marked by the Monday prior to the tournament. There are no late entries allowed! 65 Teams is a full field and will be filled on a first come first serve basis. When we have 65 teams we will no longer take any entries. When 65 teams sign up for all 4 tournaments the series will be closed.

B. ***Participants must enter as two-person teams*** (no "Partner TBD" or unknown partner names on the entry forms). Any person 17 years of age or younger must be teamed with a parent or guardian.

C. ***Each team will consist of two Captains. If one of the two Captains cannot fish a tournament, then the other Captain must fish with an alternate partner in any of the four tournaments without losing any team points. All alternate partners must be recognized on the initial entry form accompanied with a \$20 membership fee per alternate partner prior to the start of the tournament series. Teams may have the same alternate partner but must pay \$20 if an alternate is listed on their application. If you do not have an alternate listed on your application and one of the two Captains cannot fish you will be disqualified from that tournament!***

D. BWC does not discriminate based on race, creed, color or gender. BWC is not required to accept all applications and retains sole discretion on acceptance or rejection of any application.

E. The entry fee for each team per tournament is \$160 (\$150.00 entry fee plus \$10.00 for the Big Fish pot). Payment must accompany each entry. Check/cash are acceptable payments. A \$40 processing fee will be applied to all declined non-sufficient funded checks. Payments are to be made to: BAGO WALLEYE CLUB INC. Mail to: BAGO WALLEYE CLUB, P.O. Box 116, Eldorado WI 54932.

II. REFUNDS & CREDIT

A. No refunds apply at any time. No refunds will be made nor will credit be extended for any cancellations. Disqualification from a tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee. No refunds or credits are extended to teams that choose not to fish due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. If you are caught cheating you will be banned from all BWC events and all other tournament organizations will be notified as well.

III. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE, REGISTRATION & RULES MEETING

A. Pre-tournament practice is allowed up until 8pm the day before the tournament. You must be OFF the water by 8pm that Saturday.

B. Each competitor must register in person at tournament headquarters by 6:45 AM on the tournament day. If you show up late you will be disqualified. If an emergency presents itself you must call Sean Freund to explain the situation and will be addressed on a case by case basis.

C. Boat numbers for the first tournament will be decided by the postmark date on your entry. If more than one entry is received with the same postmark date those entries will go into a random draw to determine boat number. Boat numbers for remaining tournaments will be decided by how you placed the tournament prior. The top 30 teams will be in the first flight and remaining teams in the second flight. All board members leave at the end of first flight and come in 15 minutes early. A one week preference will be given to club members who fished the year prior and are sending in for all 4 events. Teams entering single events may enter after the second Saturday in April and their boat number will be based on entry date. Entry fees for single events will be returned if fields are full. There will be two flights if we have 40 or more boats. One flight will leave at 7:00 and the other at 7:30. Example: 1-20 and 21-40. Return times will be 3p.m and 3:30p.m. All rules and information will be done via email. You must have a valid email address to enter this tournament. You must have a copy of these rules in your boat on tournament day. There will be no meeting the day before the tournament other than before the first event; we will however answer any questions the morning of the tournament.

IV. TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY, POLICY & SAFETY

A. Participants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with tournament officials. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a participant could be grounds for disqualification or rejection of entry application. Every competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field in order to maintain the highest integrity to the competition. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported to tournament officials for further investigation.

B. Any tournament angler has a right to protest another team. A written protest must be made with a Bago Walleye Club board member within 1/2 hour of tournament end time. A \$200 protest fee must accompany the protest. A polygraph or CVS Voice Stress Analyzer may be utilized after the tournament date. If the protest is valid the disqualified party must pay the protest fee and all investigative costs.

C. The Bago Walleye Club Inc. may in a random manner, periodically select a first or second place team member for a CVS voice stress analyzer. Failure to participate in this procedure will result in forfeiture of the prize for the team.

D. The board members will interpret these rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and their decision in any dispute is final. A copy of these rules **MUST** be in each competitor's boat during the tournament.

E. Boat operator must have boater's liability insurance and is required to list insurance company on tournament application.

F. All BWC tournaments will be conducted as catch-and-release events.

G. All tournament boats will be inspected to have all the Coast Guard required safety equipment. Tournament boats will also be inspected for functioning and empty live-wells.

H. All teams are subject to official inspection during the tournament and agree to an inspection at any time. No fishing information may be given to participants during tournament fishing hours by anyone in any fashion. **Cell phones are NOT allowed and only for safety purposes. No Internet access is allowed, nor is text messaging, paging, or walk-talkie to another person during tournament hours.** BWC may request cell phone records in the course of investigation and all participants agree to provide such records if requested of them. We will enforce these rules! Any cheating in this tournament circuit is grounds for criminal charges!

I. Participants agree to wear a Coast Guard approved personal floatation device anytime the main engine is running and the boat is on plane.

J. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate.

K. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning and/or severe weather, participants may pull into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except at a commercial gas dock, the official weigh-in site or if severe weather forces them ashore. Tournament hours may be shortened at the discretion of tournament director due to unsafe weather conditions.

L. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be possessed or consumed during fishing tournament hours

M. Tournament boundaries or restricted fishing zones will be discussed via email and may be further restricted if needed. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times.

N. Late penalties...LATE MEANS LATE. If you are late you will be disqualified. If you are not off plane and within sight of check in boat you are late.

O. BWC participants must possess all necessary fishing licenses and commit to following regulations. All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting.

P. Any team that receives a written citation for any violation during the tournament hours will be disqualified. If you receive a violation and don't report it to one of the BWC board members you will be disqualified from all future events!

Q. The use of any type of visual enhancing device during the tournament is strictly prohibited. Example: binoculars, monocular & telescopes. You may have binoculars in the boat for emergency purposes only!

V. FISHING SPECIFICS

A. Each contestant may use up to 3 rods per person with 1 lure per rod or 3 baits presented total at one time. Trolling is permitted.

B. Competitors are restricted from impeding another competitor's immediate water. No anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within 10-yard circle claimed by him. Anchored position means trolling motor out of the water and boat is holding position due to some kind of anchoring system. A Power Pole/Talon will qualify for an anchoring system. Tied to an obstruction, like a pier, is not anchoring

C. All teams will be allowed to weigh a 5 fish limit for all tournaments.

D. No Sauger will be allowed to be weighed. If you bring in a Sauger you will lose that fish as part of your bag.

E. Any team that brings an extra or 6th fish to the bump station will have the longest fish disqualified from their total basket.

F. Minimum size limit for all walleye will be 15 inches as measured on the official tournament bump board. **We encourage everyone to calibrate their bump boards to the official board.**

G. A team that brings a short fish to the weigh-in will have the short fish and their longest fish eliminated. At the time of weigh-in each fish will be measured by tournament officials with its mouth closed and its tail pinched. There will be a courtesy bump board available to all anglers prior to the scale opening and the morning of the tournament.

H. Dead fish will result in a 1/4-pound deduction to angler's final weight. Example: (2 dead fish equals minus 1/2 pound). Any adulteration of fish will result in a disqualification in the tournament.

I. In case of a tie, individual tournaments will have a split pot. See below for information on ties in the finals.

J. If equipment failure occurs you may do one of two things. Both partners remain in their boat and are towed by water to weigh-in, or by one partner entering the boat of another tournament contestant and transferring catch into that contestant's boat. Under these two conditions the contestants' catches will be counted without a penalty. (Except for dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules).

VI. WINNING

A. Each team's total weight minus deductions will determine the final tournament standings. The team with the most weight in a tournament will win that tournament.

VII. SERIES FINALS AND POINTS

A. There will be 4 tournaments on the Lake Winnebago System to make a tournament series. Anglers will fish each tournament as an individual tournament but will gain points based on how they perform at each tournament. The team with the most points after the final tournament will be the series winners or Team of the Year. You must pre-enter all 4 events with entries postmarked no earlier than the fourth Monday in February and on or before the second Saturday in April to qualify for the series Championship!

B. The first place team at each tournament will receive 65 points, second place 64 and so on. The teams that zero will all be tied and receive half the point value available for their place in the tournament. An example of this scoring will come from a tournament of 65 boats with 55 teams catching at least 1 fish and 10 teams with zero fish: The 10 teams with zero fish will all be in 56th place which earns all the teams 10 points; the zero fish teams will all earn half of the 10 points which equals 5 points ($10 \div 2$).

C. The last tournament of the year will have two payouts. One payout will be for the tournament and the other for the top teams in the entire series.

VIII. PAYOUT

A. Tournament payout will be 80% of Tournament entry fees. 100% of the Big Fish pot will be paid out: largest fish approximately 2/3 of pot and 2nd largest fish approximately 1/3 of pot. 10% of the entry fee money will go towards the series finals and 10% will go towards club expenses. Individual tournaments will pay the top 20% of the field. Series finals will pay the top 20% of teams fishing all 4 tournaments and signed up by the deadline. The top team will have the most points accumulated over the series. If a tie occurs in any position of the Championship we will break the tie first by the number of fish each team caught throughout the 4 tournaments and second by total weight of all the team's fish caught in the 4 tournaments. Tournament awards/prizes will only be presented to participating teams on the day of the tournament during its award ceremony and **at least one team member must be present at the tournament awards ceremony to be eligible to receive a designated award/awards.** **Note: All Tournament/Championship Payout Checks Will Be Void after 60 Days Of Set/Tournament Date.**

IX. CONTINGENCIES

A. The highest placing team that purchased a new boat from The Boat Doc and is using that boat in the tournament will receive \$100 per tournament.

B. Triton Gold will apply to any anglers running a Triton boat and are signed up for Triton Gold. Win up to \$7000 per tournament with 60-boat field! Triton is also paying the top finisher in the top 10 if Triton Gold is not won. Win up to \$500 for finishing the highest in each tournament. Triton is also paying up to \$500 to the winner and up to \$250 for highest finisher if there are 30-59 boats and you are running a Triton boat!

C. The BWC is a NTC (National Team Championship) qualifying series. The BWC is allotted a certain amount of spots each year for the NTC tournament which is usually the end of May. The NTC also offers side pots for each BWC event and must have 10 teams signed up for sidepots to be valid. If your team qualifies for the NTC thru the BWC you must fish with your partner or an alternate partner listed on your initial application. More info about the NTC can be found at <http://walleyefederation.com/cabelas-ntc/>.

C. There may be more contingencies in the future. Any future contingencies will be posted at www.bagowalleyeclub.com and will be announced.

Emergency contact for the Bago Walleye Club is Sean Freund.....920-422-1069