

## 2010 DAV Walleye Tournament Rules

### Format

DAV tournaments shall be two-angler team format. No one may fish alone. All DAV events are two (2) day accumulated weight events. An angler may fish with a different partner; however, they will be scored as two separate teams.

### Fishing License

Each entrant must enter his Pennsylvania Fishing License Number on the entry form. **Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**

### Registration

On site registrations will be conducted between 1:00pm and 6:00pm Friday, the day before each event. All teams are required to be off tournament waters by 6:00pm registration day. Pre-registered teams are NOT required to show up the day of registration. All teams are expected to have read and understand the tournament rules and in signing their entry form agree that they have read the rules, release of liability, and participation agreement. If a team does not understand the rules set forth they may question the tournament director for clarification at registration. All pre-registered teams will have priority take-off numbers. All on-site registrations will be assigned take-off numbers on a first come first serve basis.

### Boat Requirements/Inspection

All boats must meet all U.S. Coast Guard and appropriate state or nation requirements. Boats are required to have an operating marine band radio for any Lake Erie events. All boats entering DAV tournaments are responsible for carrying an insurance policy. Each boat must have properly aerated or re-circulating live well space to maintain a live catch. All outboard motors will not exceed the horsepower limitation as indicated on the manufacturers rating plate. All teams are required to be at the official launch site for mandatory boat inspection between 5:00am to 6:45am tournament mornings. No tournament boat may come in contact with any other boat during the tournament hours except in an emergency. Teams are not permitted to exit the boat during tournament hours except in an emergency.

### Safety

Each contestant must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times when combustion engine is operating above idle or trolling speed. Safe boating must be observed at all times.

### Sportsmanship

All contestants are expected to uphold good sportsmanship and courtesy toward other contestants, safety standards set by the DAV, the fishing and boating laws of that state and/or nation, and respect all fish, their habitat, and the conservation thereof. Any contestants that break these rules/regulations will be disqualified and may not receive tournament prizes, money, or participation points.

### Off Limits/Boundaries

Teams may fish on any tournament waters that can be accessed by boat unless designated "off limits" by the Tournament Director. The Lake Erie event will remain in United States waters only. All tournament waters are off limits from Friday 6:00pm registration day until 5:00am tournament morning. Off limits means "no fishing, boating, or water travel of any kind". All teams who desire to launch at another site must contact the Tournament Director registration-day for approval.

### Weather

The Tournament Director will begin each tournament only during acceptable weather conditions. If winds are less than 20 knots and/or waves are 5 feet or less, these are considered acceptable weather conditions. We will not launch under small craft advisory. It is each team's responsibility to be aware of weather conditions, when on the water, and to take safe shelter if conditions become unsafe. If boats are released and bad weather conditions warrant a recall of all teams, teams will be notified via marine band radio and given a deadline time of return. If teams are released and recalled with more than 4 hours fishing time, teams will be permitted to weigh their fish providing they have returned before the deadline time. Any boat returning after this deadline recall time will not be permitted to weigh fish at the official scale.

### Release/Check-In

Boat safety/fair play inspections start at the official launch site at 5:00am. Normal start time is 7:00am. Boats will be released by order of take-off boat number. At the tournament start, each boat's take-off number is called from the Tournament Director's boat. Each team must display their take-off number to the starter. They will be recorded as starting when their number is recorded by the starter. If you are late to start, proceed to the Director's boat after the last number is called and identify your team with your take-off number. **Any boat that fails to make the call will be disqualified.**

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Contestants must return to the official check point by 3:00pm (NO EXCEPTIONS). In the event of a breakdown on the water, teams are permitted to be towed in by another team but both teams must be in on time (no exceptions). There are no exceptions to the official check in time. If any team is late returning to the official check in point at the designated check in time they will be disqualified for the day and not be permitted to weigh in fish or be eligible for tournament prizes or participation points for that day. In the event of a breakdown on the water, one team member may transfer their team's fish (in a closed & sealed container) to another tournament boat and receive a ride to the weigh-in. Upon arrival at the check-in site, that team member MUST notify the tournament director immediately of the breakdown situation and the proper steps will be taken to recover the disabled boat.

### **Bag Limits/Weigh-In**

Teams may bring to the scale only five fish per team unless conditions warrant the Tournament Director to change this amount prior to the event. A minimum length of 15 inches per fish is required. State size and bag limits will always take precedence over tournament rules unless there is no size or bag limit regulations issued by that state and/or nation. All small fish will be measured on the official tournament measuring board by the Tournament Director/Staff. Species allowed for weigh-in are Walleye, Sauger, & Saugeye. If a team brings to the official scale more than the tournament limit or an illegal (short) fish, that team will be disqualified for that tournament day and receives no prizes or participation points. All teams will compete for total weight with penalties of 2/10ths (.20) deduction per dead fish. Dead fish penalties may be waived by the Tournament Director at the rules meeting the day prior in cases where it is determined that fish would not survive even though they are released alive. Every reasonable effort must be made to release fish alive after weigh-in. All fish shall become the property of the DAV after they are weighed for the purpose of release.

In the Big Fish Pot, a 2/10's (.20) deduction shall be made if the big fish is dead.

### **Ties**

In the event of a tie in overall season standings, a team's highest weight of the season shall break the tie. In the event of a tie at any one tournament, tied positions shall be combined and split evenly with the lesser value prize places being eliminated.

### **Pay-Outs/Points Matrix**

- For a field of 25 teams or less: 70% payback.
- For a field of 26 to 40 teams: 75% payback.
- For a field of 41 teams or more: 80% payback.
- For a field of 75 teams or less, 5 places will be paid as follows: 1st place - 40%, 2nd place - 30%, 3rd place - 15%, 4th place - 10%, 5th place - 5%.
- For a field of 76 teams or more 10 places will be paid as follows: 1st - 33.5%, 2nd- 20%, 3rd - 15%, 4th - 11.5%, 5th - 6.5%, 6th - 5%, 7th - 3.5%, 8th - 2.5%, 9th - 1¾%, 10th - ¾%.
- Payout percentages are a very close guideline but actual payout may differ as figures are rounded up or down to an even dollar amount.
- The Giordano Memorial Tournament is a benefit fundraiser event and only pays back 65%.
- The winning team of each tournament followed by the highest scoring teams of the season will be recommended to Cabela's for eligibility in the Cabela's National Team Championship Tournament until the spaces allotted by Cabela's are filled.

### **Liability/Waiver**

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV), its board members, employees, promoters, tournament directors, sponsors, and organizations assisting in the tournament operation are not responsible for injuries, deaths, damages, liability, theft, fire, or any loss of any kind to contestants and their equipment. Each entrant, upon signing an entry form, will be signing a waiver on that form stating that they assume full responsibility for the above and that their actions are voluntary.

### **Disqualification**

Disqualification from the tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee. The DAV Tournament Directors ruling will be the final decision in any rules interpretation.