



Official Rules of Women Anglers of Minnesota 33rd Annual Tournament June 5, 2010 Fish Hook Lake, Park Rapids Minnesota

AUTHORITY:

The Executive Board of Women Anglers of Minnesota has adopted these rules. The interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee: Julie Lane, Vice President/Tournament Chair, list of full committee provided in Tournament packet. The decision of the Tournament Committee and Shore Crew shall be final in all matters.

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:

Participation is open to all women 16 years of age and older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of the Tournament Committee is the responsibility of the prospective competitor.

REGISTRATION:

A properly completed and signed official application and the registration fee of \$85 for 2010 paid active members and \$160.00 for non-members must be received by Women Anglers of Minnesota no later than Monday, May 18, 2010 to fish the 2010 tournament. Once capacity of 150 participants or no more than 75 boats is reached, the tournament will be deemed full and all additional applications will be returned. No boat will be officially registered until all partners in that boat have paid their tournament fees. Current members of WAM must have their membership renewed by April 15th if fishing the tournament. Current members will pay \$160.00 to fish tournament after April 15th. This does not apply to new members.

REFUNDS:

Registration fees will be returned only if Women Anglers of Minnesota receive notification postmarked before May 17, 2010 or any board member is called by Monday, May 17, 2010. If participation is cancelled after this date, there will be no refunds. A \$15.00 service charge will be retained from all refunds if withdrawal happens before date mentioned above. If the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, NO MONEY will be refunded. All tournament registration fees (minus dinner cost) and prizes will be held over for the next year's annual tournament.

SELECTION OF PARTNERS:

There shall be a minimum of two competitors per boat and all occupants of the boat must be registered tournament competitors. Competitors select their own partners prior to registration deadline. It is the responsibility of each competitor to verify that all fish taken by her partner(s) are taken in accordance with the tournament rules and DNR regulations.

EASE-OFF:

Ease off positions will be determined by draw on Friday June 4, 2010 at 6:00 pm Park Rapids American Legion. At least one competitor from each boat **MUST** attend to receive all needed materials and information.

BOAT FLAGS:

Identification flags will be handed out Friday, June 4, 2010. Flags must be attached to the boat before it is checked in for the tournament Saturday morning. In the event that a flag is lost during the tournament time, participants must **IMMEDIATELY** report to the weigh-in area for a replacement flag. Otherwise, **all participants in the boat will be disqualified.**

PAPERWORK:

All participants **MUST** have ALL necessary paperwork filled out **BEFORE** you get to the dock for check in the morning of the tournament. Participants not ready (i.e., incomplete paperwork, waiver/release form, and valid 2010 fishing license) will **NOT** be allowed to compete until all required paperwork is complete.

CHECK-IN:

Check-in will start at 4:50 a.m. Each boat will be validated on an official check off list by an official shore crew member and sent to the holding area. All boats will be released at 5:30 a.m., seconds apart, one by one in the order assigned upon registration. If you miss your assigned position, you will be placed at the end of the line. It is not mandatory that any official tournament participants have to start at 5:30. If you choose to start at a later time, you may do so. If you start later, it **DOES NOT** mean the ending time changes. Ending time of 2:00 p.m. stays the same for all participants.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS:

No drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) or alcoholic beverages are allowed in a competitor's boat and shall be a cause for automatic disqualification for the entire boat.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS:

No underwater cameras or two-way radios are allowed in a competitor's boat and shall be a cause for automatic disqualification for the entire boat. If a marine radio is installed in your boat, we ask that it be turned off and not used during the tournament. Cell phones will be allowed for emergency calls only, but you must register your phone number with the Tournament Committee. If you take your cell phone onto your boat, we ask that it remain **OFF** unless you have an emergency. If you are seen using any unauthorized electronic equipment, the entire boat **will be automatically disqualified.**

BUFFER ZONES:

All boats must maintain a 50-foot buffer zone between anchored boats (except officials' boats). If someone comes within that zone, you can ask them to move if you were there first. You do not need a 50-foot buffer zone between your boat and the shore. You **CANNOT** land at any point except the tournament base, Head of the Lakes Resort, at the designated check-in area.

FISHING AREA:

Fishing area is limited to Fish Hook Lake, Fish Hook River and Mud Lake. Any boat found in any other fishing area other than specified will be required to surrender their flag and the **entire boat is disqualified.**

LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who fail to turn in their flag at the official check-in boat area by 2:00 p.m. will be **AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.** Check-in area will be described on paper and placed in each participant's packet of information.

UNRELEASEABLE:

All live fish will be released. Any fish that cannot be released shall be placed in bags in the freezer. All packages must be labeled with the name and address of the angler. Fish must be packaged in accordance with current DNR regulations so that the fish are countable and identifiable. Fish placed in the freezer belong to the angler and may not be disposed of in any fashion.

beyond that which is allowed by existing DNR fishing regulations. No person may possess more than one daily limit of fish of any kind(s). All unclaimed fish will automatically be given to the Raptor Center.

LARGEST FISH:

Only your largest fish in each species will qualify. You may win only one prize per species (i.e., if a Northern wins grand prize, that fish cannot win in the Northern category).

POINTS 2010:

Points will be awarded to each fish qualified. Basis for points will be the average size of the two largest fish in each species caught in WAM tournaments in the last three years.

Species	Weight	Min. Length	Points
Bass	3.51 lb	12"	100
Northern	4.87 lb	20"	100
Walleye	2.82 lb	15"	100
Crappie	.85lb	none	100
Sunfish	.56 lb	none	100

(slot limit rules apply as per DNR regulations)

Any contestant weighing in any fish of less than minimum length for its species will automatically **disqualify the entire boat.**

TIES: Ties will be decided by "time". First fish weighed in will win. If unable to break the tie by time for the Grand Prize, the Grand Prize winner will be decided by the flip of a coin.

GRAND PRIZE: Grand Prize will be awarded to the highest point fish.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

In the event that there is a delay due to fog, lightening, or high winds (life threatening conditions) during the tournament, all competitors are expected to take whatever actions are necessary to ensure safety. After the threat has been canceled, the tournament will continue except as noted below:

If the storm continues for more than 2 hours, the Tournament Committee may declare that inclement weather precludes continued fishing and therefore, end the tournament prior to the announced fishing times. In that event, the Tournament Committee shall post a written notice of the revised schedule at the weigh-in table. No fish taken after the posted end time shall be accepted for competition. Each competitor is responsible for contacting the Tournament Official at the weigh-in table or Tournament Headquarters to determine the status of the tournament. If the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, NO MONEY will be refunded. All tournament registration fees (minus dinner cost) and prizes will be held over until the next year's annual tournament.

MINNESOTA FISHING & BOATING REGULATIONS:

Each competitor must have in her possession a valid Minnesota fishing license and must show the license to the tournament official at the checkpoint before beginning competition. Each competitor must have in her boat a Coast Guard approved life vest and any boat 16' and over must have a throw able floatation device. It is the responsibility of each competitor to know and observe Minnesota regulations regarding fishing and watercraft safety, including weighing in one legal limit of each species. I.E.: 3 Northern, 6 Walleye, 6 Bass, 20 Sunfish, 10 Crappies. Violations will result in **immediate disqualification from the tournament.**

LIVE WELLS: Live wells must have either functioning flow through systems or functioning aerators. Live wells must be capable of sustaining the anticipated number and size of angled fish in good condition. ***No more than two of each species per participant can be held in anglers' live wells at any time. (New condition of permit issued by DNR)***

CULLING OR SORTING OF FISH: Per DNR Regulations, "Once a limit of fish has been reduced to possession, no culling or live well sorting of that species is allowed.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors are expected to follow high standards of good sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these basic sporting principals may be **deemed cause for disqualification.**

CATCH & RELEASE:

Fish being weighed in must be brought up to the weigh-in table in the official tournament bags. One official weigh-in bag will be given to each participant when they bring fish in to be weighed. All live fish will be released. Fish must be released by an individual at least 18 years of age and must be a member of the official Shore Crew.

PRIZES:

Prizes are ranked according to their estimated dollar value, and will be awarded accordingly. First, second, and third place plaques and prizes will be awarded in each of the five categories; Bass, Walleye, Northern, Crappie, Sunfish. Fun Tournament optional; Rock Bass plaques and prizes for first, second and third places. (Rock Bass does not qualify for Grand Prize). In the case of a prize that includes a pledge by a donor to provide goods and/or services at a future date, WAM assumes the donor will act in good faith. WAM cannot be held responsible in the event that a donor fails to provide the pledged goods and/or services. Taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of the winner.

DISQUALIFICATION:

Any infraction of the above rules will **disqualify the entire boat.**

PROTEST:

Any competitor wishing to lodge a complaint must submit her complaint in writing to the Tournament Committee prior to 3:30 p.m., June 5, 2010. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be FINAL.

POLYGRAPH:

The Grand Prize winner agrees to voluntarily submit to a polygraph test at the request of the Tournament Committee.

Special Note: All information contained within this document may be subject to change per the Tournament Committee members. Any and all changes will be posted via the newsletter or tournament packets of each participant. Any and all changes will be reported to the DNR Fisheries for permit amendment.