



25th Annual Summer Fishing Tournament
 Saturday, July 13, 2024 – 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Alternate date: Sunday, July 14)
 Lake of the Woods (Muskeg Bay, Warroad, MN) • Limited to 125 teams

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Eligibility:** Fishermen 18 years old and older may compete in the tournament. Persons under 18 may participate only as a teammate of a person that is 18 or older. All entries must be two person teams. Boat numbers will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. There is room for 125 boats in this tournament. Entry forms must be received by 6:00 p.m., July 12, 2024. Refunds will not be issued after July 1, 2024.
2. **Price:** \$250/team
3. **Headquarters:** Site of contest will be Muskeg Bay on Lake of the Woods (Warroad City Boat Ramp).
4. **Pre-Tournament Meeting:** Pre-Tournament social will be held at 5:30pm on 7/12 at The Woods. It is mandatory that at least one member from each team be in attendance by 5:30. Rules meeting will begin at 6pm.
5. **Pre-Tournament Inspection:** Boat check-in will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Every boat's contents and live well will be inspected at check-in prior to the start of the tournament. Please have all compartments open for pre-tourney inspection.

Alcohol will not be allowed in the boat. Boats and trailers will also be inspected for (and must be free of) vegetation prior to start of tournament. Tournament officials or other fishermen may observe teams.

6. **Fishing Hours:** The tournament will feature a staggered start at 7:45, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. Fishing hours end at 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00 and 4:15 for the respective flights. The Fish Donkey app will time stamp your entry the second you press submit (even if you don't have cell service). We will verify time stamps and any fish submitted that has a time stamp outside of your fishing hours will result in a team DQ. Each team will have one hour from the end of their flight to ensure all fish are correct on their stringer. There will be no boat check in at the end of the tourney. All participants are required to return their block and ruler to us by 5:15pm on 7/17/23. To ensure everyone is off the water this is mandatory and will be a DQ if not done.

Flight Start and End Times:	End of Flight/		
	Take Off	Last Possible Time Stamp	Complete Stringer Deadline
Flight 1(Boats 1 through 25):	7:45	3:15	4:15
Flight 2(Boats 26 through 50):	8:00	3:30	4:30
Flight 3(Boats 51 through 75):	8:15	3:45	4:45
Flight 4(Boats 76 through 100):	8:30	4:00	5:00
Flight 5(Boats 101 through 125):	8:45	4:15	5:15

7. **Tournament Start:** We will be starting the boats from the city dock area. We will be doing this in flights of 25 boats at the times outlined above. You will be responsible to present your boat number at the time your flight is to depart. It is mandatory that you depart in numeric sequence within your flight. You are responsible to line yourself up while you are waiting for your scheduled departure time. If you are not in sequence within your flight you will be asked to move to the end of your flight. If you miss your scheduled time you will leave at the end of the last flight.
8. **Fishing Area:** Lake of the Woods (Minnesota waters) only.
9. **Tackle:** Live or artificial bait may be used. Down Rigging will not be allowed.
10. **Fish Requirements:** This is a tournament for Walleye only. Any fish judged not to be fresh (caught that day) will result in team disqualification. No fish can be entered outside of flight designated fishing times.
11. **Optional Big Fish Contest:** Each team will be given one single use clip to tag a big fish if you choose to. This fish must be over 28" and must be kept with the tag fully clipped in its lower jaw. The heaviest fish of the day wins \$1,000. Ties are broken by the longest fish on your teams stringer. The clipped fish also counts toward your 5 fish stringer and must be entered in the app in the manner noted below. Big fish must be brought in by boat and weighed before 5:15pm. If you keep a fish to weigh you must take it after the awards ceremony.

12. Measuring and Photo Documenting:

- a. All Photo's and Videos must be taken through the FishDonkey App and on the measuring board that you will be provided.
- b. We have paid for 125 teams to participate on the app. One person per team can use the app for this tournament.
- c. It is your responsibility to know and understand how to use the app.
 - i. The app will date and time stamp pictures and videos even if you don't have cell service.
 - ii. If you need technical assistance with the app, please call 701-388-6980 or 218-232-8052.
- d. Fish should be recorded immediately and measurements noted by length
 - i. **Recommended Measuring Process:** The mouth must clearly touch the bump of the measuring board and the belly should face you. Pinch or move the fish's tail so it crosses the nearest ¼" line. Keep hands out of the gills and mouth. The tail must touch the line to be counted as that ¼". If it does not touch the line, round down to the next ¼".
- e. **All entries must include:**
 - i. **One picture of you holding the fish**
 - ii. **One picture of the entire fish on the board – only this picture will be used to determine length**
 1. The fish can have an open or closed mouth, and a pinched or non pinched tail. The mouth must clearly touch the bump of the board. Hands must not be inside gills or mouth. 1/2" will be deducted if the fish is not in contact with the front of the bump board or hand is inside gill or mouth.
 - iii. **One video that shows the fish on the board plus you releasing the fish into the lake(or livewell if clipped for big fish contest). The video should be quick and is only to prove the fish went back in the lake and will not be used for length verification.**
 1. If the video doesn't show the fish on the board and then to the lake we will deduct ½" off that fish.

While you can take as many pictures and videos as you'd like we only allow one of each of the three requirements to be submitted.

*****If you submit more than the two pictures and one video we will deduct 1/2" off that fish.**

13. **Safety:** All Minnesota fishing and boating regulations must be observed by tournament teams. In case of inclement weather, the tournament will be moved to Sunday, July 18th. Should the weather continue to be uncooperative, the event will be canceled; entry fees would be refunded in their entirety.

14. **On the Water Inspections:** We will be on the water observing participants as they fish. We may come aboard your boat if needed.

15. **Other Rules:** The public has first use of the docks for loading and unloading. Please be respectful of that.

Life jackets must be worn when running to and from fishing areas.

It shall be illegal for any boat to go ashore or come together, other than at the check-in point. Exceptions to this rule would include storm, sickness, mechanical difficulties, or other emergency situations. Marine band radios or cell phones may be used in case of emergency situations only. In the event of an emergency (and if contacted), tournament officials will help notify local law enforcement, emergency services, or the Coast Guard so they may assist you. The tournament will not be responsible for break downs or equipment failures.

Any infractions of tournament rules may result in disqualification; tournament officials will make all decisions.

16. **Scoring** Prizes will be based on the total length of the teams 5 longest Walleye and on the single heaviest Walleye(for optional largest Walleye contest). The single heaviest Walleye must be included in the stringer of 5 fish. Only 5 Walleye can be scored. Ties will be broken by the individual length of the longest fish between the two catches. The next longest fish from each respective catch will determine ties between the longest walleyes. Cash prizes for top 12 teams are based on an 80% pay back; if the field of participants is less than 125, amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

Cash Prizes are as follows:

1 st place \$5100	4 th place \$3200	7 th place \$1300	10 th place \$600
2 nd place \$4100	5 th place \$2900	8 th place \$1000	11 th place \$500
3 rd place \$3500	6 th place \$1600	9 th place \$800	12 th place \$400
Heaviest Walleye – \$1,000			

17. **Awards Ceremony** will be held at the Lake of the Woods Brewery. Social at 5pm with awards at 6pm.

18. **Other Events** There will be a free kids fishing contest from 3 to 5pm on the docks at the Lake of the Woods Brewery in Warroad. There will also be door prizes and other attractions for those in attendance.

ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES, OR WEIGH-IN PERSONNEL, WILL BE FINAL.

NEITHER **THE WOODS**, NOR ANYONE AFFILIATED WITH **THE WOODS OR THE TOURNAMENT** SHALL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENT OR INJURY TO PARTICIPANT OR THEIR EQUIPMENT.