

Official Rules of Women Anglers of Minnesota 42nd Annual Tournament
June 1, 2019 Woman Lake, Hackensack, 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: Erin Murray, Vice President/Tournament Chair, list of full committee provided in Tournament Handbook. The decision of the Tournament Committee and/or 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 tourney application for 2019 must be received by Women Anglers of Minnesota no later than Friday May 17, 2019 to fish the 2019 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 and are current on their membership dues.

REFUNDS: Registration fees will be returned if Women Anglers of Minnesota receives notification by May 1, 2019. 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 in order of boat team registration received, once we have received all registrations for your boat you will be assigned the next boat number available in sequential order. At least one competitor from each boat pairing **MUST** attend to receive all needed materials and information at the tournament meeting on Friday, May 31, 2019.

BOAT FLAGS: Identification flags will be handed out Friday, May 31st, 2019. 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.

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 2019 fishing license) will NOT be allowed to compete until all required paperwork is complete.

CHECK-IN: Check-in will start at 5:50 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 6:30 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 6:30. 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 3:00 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, if you take your cell phone onto your boat, we ask that it is only used for an emergency phone calls, to take a pictures or using mapping applications. Cell phones are not to be used to gather an advantage in the tournament.

BUFFER ZONES: All boats must maintain a 50-foot buffer zone between anchored boats (except tournament 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, Women Lake Lodge, at the designated check-in area.

FISHING AREA: Fishing area is limited to Woman and Girl Lake only. 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: Boats that fail to cross the finish line threshold by 3:00 p.m. will be **AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.** The finish line will be a boat crew boat signified by a yellow flag staged outside of the weigh in area. If you have no fish to weigh in, give your red emergency flag to the boat crew and your boat # so we know you have returned, do not dock your boat in the weigh in area. This area needs to be clear for boats that need to weigh in fish.

UNRELEASEABLE: **All live fish will be released, with the exception of Walleye per the conditions of our tournament permit.** 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).

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 2019: 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	3.73	12 inches	100
Northern	4.94	20 inches	100
Walleye	3.25	15 inches	100
Crappie	.98		100
Sunfish	.75		100

(slot limit rules apply as per DNR regulations)

Special Regulations for Woman and Girl Lake:

- All Northern Pike caught between 24" and 36" must be immediately returned to the lake. Only Northern Pike measuring between 20 inches and 23.99 inches and over 36" maybe weighed in. Any Northern Pike brought to the weigh station that measures between 24 and 36 inches will immediately disqualify the entire boat in which the fish was taken.
- Possession Limit 3 per person
- Only one over 36 inches per person
- Muskies are not eligible for weigh in and must be immediately returned to the water, weighing a Musky on tournament day will result in a disqualification of the entire boat in which the fish was taken.

DNR Statewide Regulations:

- Individuals may only possess one Walleye over 20 inches

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

The participant is responsible for recording weight, length and points on the provided personal scorecard.

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. 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.

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 in compliance with the fishing tournament permit requirements. Fish must be released by 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, fourth and fifth place prizes (no plaques) will be awarded in each of the five categories; Bass, Walleye, Northern, Crappie, Sunfish. Fun Tournament optional; Perch plaques and prizes for first, second and third places. (Perch does not qualify for Grand Prize). 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 to the Shore Crew within one hour of alleged infraction during the tournament. For protests regarding the placement and awards, these must be lodged within 1 hour of the completion of the award ceremony. The decision of the Official Shore Crew 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.