

# Official Rules of Women Anglers of Minnesota

## 46th Annual Open Water Tournament

June 8th, 2024 Lake Osakis, MN

### Take off from Head of Lakes Resorts

**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. A list of the full committee will be provided in the 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 application for 2024 must be received by Women Anglers of Minnesota no later than Monday May 24th, 2024, to fish the 2024 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 waitlisted. 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 1st, 2024. If participation is canceled after this date, there will be no refunds. A \$15.00 service charge will be retained from all refunds if withdrawal happens before May 1st 2024. 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. Registrants will be updated on email, text message, and via Facebook if there are issues.

**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 the 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.

**ASSIGNMENT OF BOAT #'S:** 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. The last registration is what will determine your ease off. Ease off for pontoons reserved by Women Anglers of Minnesota will be at 6:30 am. Other pontoon boats registered will have ease off based on registration order as above. At least one competitor from each boat pairing **MUST** attend the rules meeting at 7 pm Friday, June 7th, 2024 to receive all needed materials and information.

**BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Identification tape will be handed out Saturday, June 8th, 2024 at check in. Tape must be attached to the boat during the tournament. If your tape is lost, participants must let the tournament director know via phone.

**PAPERWORK/WAIVER/BUMP BOARD:** All participants MUST have ALL necessary paperwork BEFORE you get to the dock for check in the morning of the tournament. Participants need to show a valid fishing license. The waiver for participation is signed by registering for this tournament online. Please be sure to read through the waiver agreement when you apply for the tournament. We will hand out a bump board to your boat at the rules meeting for you to use. All photos will be taken on the approved bump board.

**BUMP BOARD:** WAM will provide a bump board for the tournament for each boat. All photos must be taken on these bump boards. These boards will be handed out at the rules meeting on Friday night. You will hand them in at the awards ceremony. If you do not return your board the boat captain will be charged \$50.

**CHECK-IN:** Check-in will start at 5:30 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. Check in will be at Head of the Lakes Resort docks on Lake Osakis.

**EASE OFF:** Boats will be released in the order of official registration one by one. Boats will be released at 6:30 a.m. It is not mandatory that any official tournament participants must start at their given start times. If you choose to start later, you may do so. If you start later, you will be required to adhere to the finish time. You must check in at the docks if you decide to check in late. Please let tournament organizers know if you will be checking in late so we can have a representative present for check in.

**ALCOHOL/DRUGS:** No illegal drugs 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 drones or flying drones allowed in a competitor's boat and shall be a cause for automatic disqualification for the entire boat. We will be using the FishDonkey Application for the official measurement of fish so cell phones are allowed. We ask that you use your cell phone only to document fish and emergency phone calls. 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 or leave your boat at any private residence or non-designated bathroom areas on the lake.

**DESIGNATED BATHROOM AREAS:** Participants may leave their boat to utilize restroom facilities at the town launch (south end), Battle point launch (mid lake), and Head of the Lakes Resort (north end).

**FISHING AREA:** Fishing area is limited to Lake Osakis. All water that is accessible via boat can be fished. Any boat found in any other fishing area other than specified boundaries will be required to surrender their flag and the entire boat is disqualified.

**FINISH TIME:** You will be taking off at 6:30 AM and all fish caught after that time will be eligible for entry into the FishDonkey application. The end of the tournament will be 3 PM. All eligible Fish **MUST** be caught and in the FishDonkey application by 3 PM. We will continue to allow fish to upload until 3:30 PM to allow for any variance in cell service and time to get to Wi-Fi. Any fish not uploaded into the FishDonkey application by 3:30 will **NOT** be counted. It is the responsibility of the participant to confirm that their fish have been uploaded to the FishDonkey application before 3:30. If the participant is having issues with images uploading, please let the tournament director know **AND** call FishDonkey to ask for assistance. If all three portions of entry are not uploaded before 3:30pm the fish will be denied. Women Anglers of Minnesota is not responsible for lack of cell service or access to Wifi for uploading fish to the FishDonkey application.

**LEADERBOARD:** The leaderboard will be available on the FishDonkey Application until 1:00 pm. After that time, the tournament leaderboard will no longer be available.

**FISH ENTRY:** The FishDonkey Application will be utilized for the fish entry. You will enter all fish caught into the application and measure on a bump board provided by Women Anglers of Minnesota.

It is up to the participant to make sure that all fish photos/videos are uploaded to the system prior to 3:30 pm. The participant is solely responsible for assuring their photos and videos are uploaded appropriately.

The results of the tournament will be available and posted to Facebook within 48 hours of tournament completion.

Each entry will require three separate parts **ALL** must be present to qualify the fish: A picture of the fish on the bump board clearly showing the closed mouth and the tail of the fish all in 1 photo. You may pinch the tail of the fish. You must have a selfie of yourself holding the fish, and there must be a release video of the fish. If your fish is large, we recommend using both photo and a video of the fish on the bump board to measure the final length of the fish. If the mouth is not closed, there will be a 1-inch penalty taken from the fish or fish may be denied if there is enough discrepancy. If your fish is longer than the bump board, the total length of the board will be the length awarded for that fish.

All fish measurements will be rounded **down** to the nearest mark that the tail crosses. \*The tail must reach the mark on the ruler to qualify for that measurement.

**FISH VERIFICATION:** All measurements will be verified by a designated fish verification team. Members of the verification team are not allowed to participate in the tournament competition. Any disputes with measurements need to be addressed with the tournament committee within 24 hr. of the tournament completion. There are instances when not all fish entered into the app will be verified.

**FISHDONKEY COMMUNICATION:** The fish verification team may utilize the FishDonkey text message feature to contact participants during the tournament. It is the responsibility of the participant to read and respond to these messages appropriately. They may also utilize regular text messages or Facebook messenger to communicate with you about your fish entry. Please check these messages regularly.

**FISH SPECIES:** The five fish species will include Bass (both large and small mouth), Crappie, Northern Pike, Sunfish, and Walleye. The “fun” fish will be Rock Bass.

**DNR STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: Are to be always followed.** Individuals may only possess one Walleye over 20 inches and specific to Osakis, no walleyes under 15 inches in possession. Since this is a catch and release tournament you may enter any size walleye into the FishDonkey Application. ***Any Walleye under 15 inches must have a successful release video. If there is not a release video, your entire boat will be disqualified.*** **Minnesota North Central Pike Regulations:** All Northern Pike caught between 22-26 inches must be immediately released. You may have 2 Northern Pike over 26 inches in possession (not applicable). Since this is a catch and release tournament you may enter any size Northern into the FishDonkey Application. Any Northern from 22-26 inches MUST have a successful release video. If there is not a release video, your entire boat will be disqualified.

**TIES:** Ties will be decided by “time”. The first fish entered by time 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 longest length fish in one of the five categories (Bass, Sunfish, Crappie, Northern or Walleye). We will draw to decide the Grand Prize fish category at the Rules Meeting on June 7th, 2024. Whatever species is drawn at the Rules Meeting will be the Grand Prize Eligible Species. The longest fish in that category will be the Grand Prize Winner and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest weight in that category will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner of that category. You cannot win Grand Prize and WAM SLAM with the same fish.

**WAM SLAM:** The WAM SLAM is awarded to the person that catches the largest (inches) of all 5 species. If there is a tie, the time of fish caught will determine the tiebreaker. (First fish caught will win). The fish included in the winning WAM SLAM stringer will only qualify for WAM SLAM prize money, and will not be eligible for other categories.

**QUALIFYING FISH:** Your largest fish registered in each species will qualify for that species. You may win only one prize per species category. Each individual fish will be eligible for only one prize award. Example: The same fish cannot win Grand Prize and be entered into the WAM SLAM competition. You will need to catch 2 of the same species to be eligible for entry into both competitions. If you catch 3 fish in the Grand Prize species category, all 3 will be registered for the 3 competitions, The default fish assignment will be made to the highest prize money amount. Any challenge of the assignment of fish, must be registered with the tournament committee within 1 hour of the awards ceremony. If you know your fish may fall in this category, please contact the tournament director prior to the start of the award ceremony.

**WINNING CATEGORIES:** Your longest fish will always be assigned to the highest payoff category. Example: Grand slam fish category is northern pike, and you catch a 36 in and 28 in northern pike. If you are the winner of WAM SLAM, the 36-inch pike will go towards the WAM SLAM and the 28 in fish will go towards the Grand Slam/species specific category. If you are not the winner of WAM SLAM the 36-inch fish will go towards the grand prize category.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** If there is a delay due to fog, lightning, 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 resolved, 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 online, on the website, notification will be sent through the FishDonkey App, and on Facebook. No fish taken after the posted end time shall be accepted for competition. Each competitor is responsible for contacting a Tournament Official to determine the status of the tournament. If the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, NO MONEY will be refunded. If canceled before fishing begins, all tournament registration fees (minus dinner cost), and prizes will be held over until 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 the competition. Each competitor must have in her boat a Coast Guard approved life vest for each angler in the boat and any boat 16' and over must have a throwable floatation device. It is the responsibility of each competitor to know and observe Minnesota regulations regarding fishing and watercraft safety. Violations will result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.

**LIVE WELLS:** Live wells should not contain fish prior to the start of the tournament.

**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. Since this is a catch and release tournament, this rule would only apply to fish you do not plan on entering in the tournament.

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

**CATCH & RELEASE:** This is a catch and release tournament. Any fish that cannot be released cannot be entered into the FishDonkey Application. All DNR rules must be followed for possession of fish on your boat in the instance that a fish cannot be released.

**PRIZES:** Prizes are ranked according to their estimated dollar value and will be awarded accordingly. WAM SLAM and Grand Prize trophies and prizes will be awarded. First-fifth place plaques and prizes will be awarded, Fun fish is optional; Rock Bass plaques and prizes for first, second and third places. (Rock Bass does not qualify for Grand Prize or WAM Slam). Winners will be determined by length on the FishDonkey Application. 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 24 hours of the completion of the award ceremony. The decision of the Official Shore Crew shall be FINAL.

**POLYGRAPH:** All winners automatically agree to voluntarily submit to a polygraph test at the request of the Tournament Committee.

**Official Prize Payouts based on a minimum entry of 100 participants.**

<b>WAM Slam:</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Grand Prize Fish:</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Bass 1st-5th Place:</b>	<b>\$500, \$300, \$200, \$150, \$50</b>
<b>Pike 1st-5th Place:</b>	<b>\$500, \$300, \$200, \$150, \$50</b>
<b>Walleye 1st-5th Place:</b>	<b>\$500, \$300, \$200, \$150, \$50</b>
<b>Crappie 1st-5th Place:</b>	<b>\$500, \$300, \$200, \$150, \$50</b>
<b>Sunfish 1st-5th Place:</b>	<b>\$500, \$300, \$200, \$150, \$50</b>
<b>Rock Bass 1st-3rd Place:</b>	<b>\$250, \$150, \$50</b>

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