

2011 CABELA'S REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIAL RULES

I. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE, REGISTRATION & RULES MEETING

A. All participants must be **off plane and within site of the boat launch and no longer fishing by 3 p.m. MST** Friday, July 15th. If there's an emergency, please contact the director immediately at 308-289-0703. There are no restrictions on how early a team can pre-fish as long as state law is followed.

B. At least one team participant must sign in at the registration and rules meeting held at the Keith County Fairgrounds located in Ogallala. Teams need to register from 5:30-6:30 PM MST. The rules meeting will start at 7:00 PM MST. In the case of an emergency or unforeseen situation, arrangements must be made with the tournament official if you are unable to attend (308-289-0703). Otherwise, if a team arrives 16 minutes or more late for registration, they will not be allowed to fish the tournament.

II. TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY, POLICY AND SAFETY

A. Contestants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times, while maintaining a professional public demeanor and communication with tournament officials. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a contestant could be grounds for disqualification or rejection of entry application. Every competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field in order to maintain the highest integrity to the competition. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported to tournament officials on an incident report for further investigation. Incident reports carry no fee and are appropriate for communicating issues that would require warnings, but not necessarily lead to disqualification. If a team feels an incident has progressed to the point of needing protest, they should move to that level of official reporting.

B. Any tournament official or participating angler has the right to protest another team. An official written protest with a mandatory \$500 fee must be made with a tournament official within one hour of completion of the daily weigh-in. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. If a rules infraction occurred, a penalty of daily and/or tournament weight may be applied, and cash, prizes and awards must be returned if requested. A polygraph or CVS Voice Stress Analyzer may be needed. If the protest is valid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs.

C. The Director will interpret these rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and his/her decision in any dispute is final.

D. Tournament officials reserve sole discretion to assign boat numbers in any manner.

E. All tournament boats will be inspected for all the required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment, including a type IV throw cushion; fire extinguisher; a distress horn or whistle; and display tournament decal credentials. All tournament boats are recommended (not mandatory) to have a marine band radio. Tournament boats will also be inspected for functioning and empty livewells.

F. All teams are subject to official inspection during the tournament at any time. No other boats may come in contact with contestants' boats, with the exception of a TV camera/media boat. Cell phones are allowed for safety purposes only, or to communicate with tournament officials. No Internet access is allowed, nor is text messaging, paging or walk-talkie to another person during tournament hours. Tournament officials may request cell phone records in the course of investigation, and all contestants agree to provide such records if requested.

G. Contestants agree to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device when on plane.

H. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase horsepower over its factory rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification.

I. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning and/or severe weather, contestants may pull to the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Contestants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except at the official weigh-in site.

J. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be possessed or consumed during tournament hours.

K. Tournament boundaries or restricted fishing zones will be announced at the rules meeting and may be further restricted if needed. Contestants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times.

L. All participants must check-in each morning before take-off and check-in each afternoon with the official timekeepers.

M. Contestants who return one to 15 minutes later than their assigned flight time will **forfeit one-half of their fish weight for that day**. Contestants who return **16 or more minutes later than their assigned flight time will forfeit their total fish weight for that day**. Returned is defined as off-plane and visible by the timekeepers.

N. On tournament days, contestants are prohibited from fishing except during designated fishing hours. Contestants should stay off tournament water before and after tournament hours, except to navigate to and from the check-in site and launch facilities. If repairs and/or test-runs are needed, an official tournament staff needs to be contacted.

O. Participants must possess all necessary fishing licenses and commit to following regulations. All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting. Only fish caught on hook and line in a normal and usual manner will be accepted.

P. All fish weighed must be kept in aerated livewells to keep fish alive and as fresh as possible for release. Any fish mauled; mashed; frozen; stringered, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight; or showing white gills, soft flesh or eyes (as per a tournament official) will result in **disqualification**. An external snap weight, whose purpose is to keep fish alive/upright in the livewell, should be removed before arriving at the bump tank.

Q. A .20 pound deduction will be made for each fish determined to be non-releasable.

R. The minimum length is 15", each angler can have one fish 22" or longer, and the maximum number of fish you may have in your boat is eight. Teams are allowed to bring 5 fish to the scales. Culling is **NOT** allowed.

S. The official ruler will be "The Howg Trough." Each fish will be measured by a tournament official with its mouth closed and tail squeezed. If a "short" or "long" fish is presented for weigh-in, the teams weight for that day will be disqualified.

III. SCORING, POINTS, PAYOUT AND SPECIAL AWARDS

A. Scoring shall be determined by the pound weight of each team's catch during the tournament. Each team's total weight will determine the final tournament standings. If a tie occurs, any cash awards of the two or more finishers will be added together and divided equally between each team. However, no cash awards will be given to any zero weights.

**BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO THE
RULES MEETING ON FRIDAY, JULY 15th**

IV. ANGLER'S WAIVER & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A. Participation Agreement: I understand this is a professional sporting event governed by the rules established by tournament officials. I acknowledge I have received a copy of these rules, and that these rules relate to the safety of all participants, as well as the fair sporting conduct of this event. The tournament officials shall act as the referees in all disputes and their decision based on their interpretation of the rules **will be final** and without legal appeal. I understand there are **never refunds** for tournament entry fees.

B. Release of Liability: I acknowledge I am participating voluntarily in the Cabela's Regional Walleye Championship on Lake McConaughy. I agree to assume all risk of injury, death, damages, theft and loss to personal property, which may result from my participation in this tournament. I recognize that loss of property, injury or death could arise from the fishing and boating activities contemplated by the tournament, and that the risks normally encountered in open water fishing from a boat may be enhanced by exposure to the elements and other risks inherent in outdoor competition. I retain the right to not compete if I feel the risks are too great on any given day; however, I realize in so doing that I forfeit any claim to my entry fee. I warrant that I am in good physical and mental health, and physically capable of withstanding the rigors and requirements of a professional fishing competition.

C. Photo & Video Release: I understand and agree that any and all photographs, videos or films taken during the course of my participation in the tournament which include me, my name and/or my boat may be used by the tournament organizers, sponsors or media without my prior consent and without royalties.

I signify by my signature below that I have read and understand the rules for the 2011 Cabela's Regional Walleye Championship 2011, and Agreement, Release of Liability, and the Photo and Video Release. Both anglers must sign!

Signature _____

Date _____

Print name on file _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Print name on file _____