

# 2026 MASTERS WALLEYE CIRCUIT (MWC) - OFFICIAL RULES

MWC expects strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. MWC also recommends the use of livewell additives to help promote the healthy release of fish. In the event of an emergency, please call 911 first and then notify the tournament director ASAP.



**1. OFFICIAL RULES & SAFETY REGULATIONS, INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT:** Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director and are not subject to any appeal. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. In the event of a rule violation, officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate including, without limitation, fines, forfeiture of prizes or weight, in all or in part, by fish, by day or overall, disqualification and/or prohibition from future participation.

**It is 100% each angler's responsibility** to know the applicable states' laws and regulations that cover the waters you intend to fish in, whether in a tournament or not. The fact that you have entered into a competitive event does not change the legal requirement for you to know and understand the laws and regulations. As any fish and game enforcement official will tell you, ignorance of the law is not an excuse.

**2. PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY:** Participants must be active members of The Walleye Federation (TWF) or join/pay for a membership at time of registration for your first event entry of the year. Memberships expire on 12/31 each year. Memberships are non-transferable and non-refundable. Any person under the age of 18 (19 in Alabama and Nebraska) must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the liability release. No person under age 12 may participate without explicit MWC approval. Participants must enter as two-person teams (no "Partner TBD" or unknown partner names on entry forms). Eligible partner changes may be allowed up until the close of on-site registration/check in. Each team must complete, agree to and submit an official entry form with payment by the due dates.

During any "official" tournament days no contestant or team may use a boat unless they have documented proof of boating liability coverage in reasonable amounts on that boat that covers all claims connected with the event. **Proof of insurance must be with the boat and or produced upon request. Random checks may be conducted at events.** MWC reserves the right to refuse participation, (including championship/special events), to anyone for any reason including, but not limited to, suspension, disqualification or banning from this or other events, criminal behavior, felony convictions, or any unsportsmanlike behavior that would reflect dishonorably on our sport.

**3. ENTRY:** Registration opens starting at 9am (CST) on Monday Feb 2, 2026, you may enter as many events as you wish. Entry fee is \$650 per team per event. Each event entry deadline is normally close of business on MONDAY prior to the event. Officials reserve the right to discontinue/extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. Payments must accompany each entry unless you sign up as a Premier Team in which case delayed billing can apply. Premier teams must call in and pay any option pot fees for each individual event if they want in that pot.

There will be a **VOLUNTARY** option pot fee of \$350.00 at each regular event that teams can choose to get into if they wish (MWC retains none of these funds) which will be 97% payback and 3% to processing fees, it is payable only to those anglers who pay into the option pot. If you do not understand how an option pot works, ask an official before signing up. All entry fees including option pot entries must be made before registration closes for the event. Option pot entry's CANNOT be paid on site. All payouts will be announced at the rules briefing prior to the event.

Online entry registration at [masterswalleyecircuit.com](http://masterswalleyecircuit.com) is the best way and membership can be paid at that time or entries may be faxed 580-765-2890 or mailed to MWC or taken over the phone at 580.765.9031. Normally entries will be accepted based on a first-come, first-served basis until the tournament is deemed full (based on when received at MWC office), should an event fill up based on limits set in advance by MWC or by state agency for any event, premier teams will be entered first, then any non-premier teams. Once you are entered into the tournament you will receive an email confirmation. It is your responsibility to confirm receipt of entry.

Those entries that are not Premier Team entries must submit **payment in full for all tournament fees** at the time of application. **No refunds will be made, nor will credit be extended for any cancellations.** Disqualification from a tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee. No refunds or credits are extended to teams that choose not to fish due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. Installment billing is an option for Premier Teams ONLY. Choosing installment billing does not negate the need to pay for all tournaments selected, even if plans involuntarily change. Premier Teams are those entering at least 3 events at once and will pay for the first event at time of registration. You will pay the balances owed which are due and payable prior to the close of each tournament registration date thereafter. Premier Teams are obligated to

pay for all tournaments selected on their initial registration. Only Premier Teams are eligible for Premier Team benefits including utilizing a substitute per rule # 18 below.

Money order, check or credit cards are acceptable payments (VISA, MasterCard, Discover). A \$25 processing fee will be applied to all declined credit cards or NSF checks. Mailing address is MWC, 5998 N Pleasant View Road, Ponca City, Oklahoma. 74601 – P-580.765.2319 - Fax 580.765.2890 register online at [masterswalleyecircuit.com](http://masterswalleyecircuit.com)

**4. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE, ONSITE REGISTRATION & COMPETITION:** There are no restrictions on how early a team can pre-fish, as long as state law is followed. There are no “official” practice days or off-limits days unless otherwise announced in advance for a specific\special event. On the day of onsite registration and mandatory rules meeting, all MWC participants must be off plane, within site of the boat launch, no longer fishing by 4pm local time. In case of emergency please contact us immediately **MWC tournament hot line at 580.716.4291**.

At least one (1) member of each team must sign in and register in person with official MWC staff at the appointed time/place prescribed for onsite registration in the event fact sheet and must be present for the mandatory rules and safety meeting held prior to each event. In the event of an emergency or unforeseen situation, arrangements must be made with a tournament official if you are unable to attend. (Please call the tournament hot line) Otherwise, if a team arrives 15 minutes or more late without approval they will be disqualified.

There will be polygraph\truth verification tests given at random throughout the year. All competitors are subject to official inspection, or truth verification testing during and\or after the tournament and agree to facilitate, participate in those inspections at any time requested and abide by their outcome. During tournament hours a competitor **may not** transmit by any form of communication including but not limited to; cell phone, CB radio, VHF marine band radio, texting, any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish or discussing your daily catch of fish, nor receive any form of communication to aid you in the locating or catching of fish. **Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone, texting, etc. only in an emergency.** During the competition day(s) competitors may not seek, nor accept the advice or assistance of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching fish or otherwise affecting the daily catch of fish for any reason from anyone except from another confirmed competitor in the same event. No competitor/team or teams may buy or barter a fish, fishing information or a fishing location.

**5. SAFETY & TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY:** We STRONGLY admonish anglers to operate your vessel responsibly and safely for any given condition, allow plenty of travel time and SLOW DOWN, DO NOT OPERATE YOUR VESSEL IN CONDITIONS YOU FEEL ARE UNSAFE FOR YOUR VESSEL, ONLY YOU CAN DETERMINE THIS AND ARE 100% RESPONSIBLE SAFE OPERATION OF YOUR VESSEL.\_Each passenger must wear a US Coast Guard-approved **chest-type** life preserver fully zippered, strapped and snapped securely anytime the boat is on plane. Inflatable PFD indicators should be checked daily. Inflatable PFDs are allowed if U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. Depending on the type and model of inflatable the Coast Guard now requires that Inflatable PFDs be always worn to be counted and cannot be taken off, unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFDs on board readily accessible. **Therefore**, each boat must carry a minimum of two (2) Coast Guard always approved chest-type NON inflatable life preservers on board to be legal in case someone in the boat takes off an inflatable PFD they are wearing, even momentarily. Federal law now requires any vessel under 26 feet to have an operational engine shut off device and that it be attached to the driver when the vessel is on plane.

Officials may restrict or alter tournament waters and reserve the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. All MWC qualifying tournaments will have published days of competition, unless delayed, or shortened due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Any boundaries or restricted zones will be announced at the rules meeting and may be further altered if needed, blow days may or may not be used at the discretion of officials. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and always avoid restricted areas

In the event of lightning, severe weather, limited visibility or any unsafe condition, participants should remove themselves from competition and seek safety or shelter until it is safe to continue. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer if required. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Changing or altering standard factory motor parts to increase horsepower over factory rated horsepower is forbidden. Each contestant agrees to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection, if requested by MWC.

At the sole discretion of the tournament director, tournament days or waters may be altered, shortened, moved, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather, water or other concerns/conditions.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Participants will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times, always maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with officials. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or

action by a participant in our efforts to promote sportsmanship, clean waters and conservation can be grounds for disqualification. Each competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field to help maintain the highest integrity of competition. Use of or possession in the boat of alcohol or marijuana/cannabis products, ("medical" or otherwise) or any mind-altering drugs by any participant during the official event or tournament days or in our weigh-in process area and/or any use by the final day designated "leaders" until any polygraph examinations are complete will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification. Any incidents observed during tournament hours should be reported to tournament officials for investigation. Any violation of these basic sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. In case of conduct not complying with these standards, MWC shall have the right at its sole discretion to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry or to disqualify or fine a contestant.

**7. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT, INSPECTIONS, PERMITS, LEGAL FISHING AND BAITS:** Participants must possess all necessary fishing licenses permits, required AIS inspections if required by law, all tournament boats must be cleaned of all harmful exotic aquatic species CLEAN, DRAINED and DRY prior to entering the water and upon departure from tournament waters and commit to following all regulations. All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting. MWC will follow state/local laws or lake limits whichever is more restrictive on the number, limit and size of rods that can be used. **HOWEVER, NO sliders, clips, or other removable or detachable "type" lines are permitted to be used. All lines and or baits must originate from and be permanently tied to the one main line coming off of one (1) main reel, per each rod.** No lines may be unfastened or able to be unfastened, unclipped or unsnapped from the one main line to facilitate landing a fish or aiding in landing a fish, all lines must be permanently tied or attached to the one main line coming off of one (1) main reel, per rod. The only exceptions herein are traditional walleye hand line set-ups which are allowed. The intent of this rule is clearly to limit detachable lines, sliders, "curtain rings" or other such similar devices, which may result in too many lines in the water at one time per state laws. If ANY set up is in question, the "more restrictive" interpretation will always be used. Any questionable homemade multiline sets up should be reviewed by tournament officials prior to use and the most restrictive interpretation will always be used.

Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line with the lure in the water. All fish must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner as defined by state statute or by tournament officials. Live bait and artificial lures are permissible in MWC events, except for any special laws or tournaments announced and defined by MWC. Trolling as a method of fishing is permitted. Any fish accidentally "foul hooked" must be immediately released. "Foul hooked" is defined as any fish accidentally hooked where the only embedded hook(s) is located anywhere behind the opening of the gill plate, unless state law is more restrictive than this interpretation, in which case state law will apply. Further any fish that is "visible to and specifically being targeted by" an angler (with or without the use of electronics) must be verified by the other partner in the boat that the fish was not foul hooked before being unhooked to be counted as a legal catch.

**It is 100% each Angler's responsibility to know the applicable states laws that cover the waters they are going to fish in whether they are entered in a tournament or not. The fact that you have entered a tournament does not change that legal requirement for you to know and understand the rules.**

An event official or MWC approved person may approach or board your boat at any time for any reason, refusal to allow an approved official on board or any efforts to impede their work may result in disqualification.

**8. BOAT, MOTOR & SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a livewell and SAFETY INSPECTION check by an event official, also a boat marker, which MUST remain in or on the boat and turned in during check-in at the end of each day. MWC reserves sole discretion to assign boat numbers in any manner. We STRONGLY admonish anglers to operate your vessel responsibly and safely for any given condition, allow plenty of travel time and SLOW DOWN, DO NOT OPERATE YOUR VESSEL IN CONDITIONS YOU FEEL ARE UNSAFE FOR YOUR VESSEL, ONLY YOU CAN DETERMINE THIS AND ARE 100% RESPONSIBLE SAFE OPERATION OF YOUR VESSEL.

There shall be an official safety checkpoint for checkout in the morning/ check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of checkout/check-in all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all rules set forth by officials. At check-in all boats shall identify themselves to the check in official and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. YOU MUST CHECK IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH. Failure to go through boat checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification or fines. **It is each angler's responsibility to know the time they are due in.** All fishing must cease upon check-in. **Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times.** Boaters are solely responsible for the safe operation of it and for the safety of all occupants in it. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times.

All tournament boats are required to have in their possession all Coast Guard-required safety equipment, including but not limited to approved CHEST TYPE personal flotation devices (SEE RULE #5 above), a type IV throw cushion, fire extinguisher, distress horn/flag/whistle, and display a boat marker/engine sticker (supplied by MWC). Great Lakes, Canadian

border and some other navigable waters require flares. Tournament boats are required to have a functioning bilge pump, and Federal law now requires any vessel under 26 feet to have an operational engine shut off device and that it be attached to the driver when the vessel is on plane. In addition, a marine band radio is recommended.

Driver must be seated behind the steering wheel or at the tiller, in full control of the boat whenever the primary combustion engine is in gear. All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. All boats must be equipped with wheel or tiller steering; no other steering device will be permitted. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted unless being used as an adaptive device. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of fish. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Optional remote engine fuel tanks must be factory- or factory-authorized-dealer installed and be strapped or otherwise secured. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

**9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by officials for each event. Each competitor must obtain this information from the MWC. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted within the boundaries defined by the tournament director that are available to the public and accessible by boat from the tournament check out location except: Any water within these boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by local, state or federal officials will be OFF-LIMITS, the removal of official local, state or federal property or barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is prohibited. Also, any live fish release area established by the Tournament Director will be off-limits and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fish or a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing accessible by boat from the tournament check out point will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat. On tournament days, participants are prohibited from fishing except during designated tournament fishing hours. Participants should stay off tournament waters before and after tournament hours except to navigate to and from the check-in site and launch facilities. If repairs and/or a test-run are needed an MWC staff member or an appointed "official" or sponsor service technician should ride along.

**10. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN TOGETHER/ BREAKDOWN INSTRUCTIONS:** Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the team using the boat presents their catch for weigh-in, except with the permission\direction of the tournament director. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency, if they wish their fish to be counted for the day. In case of breakdown or emergency, in which a team travel back to the weigh-in site under power, anglers should contact tournament officials. The only legal way to return for weigh-in without your own power is; 1.) By being towed in by a boat operated by another competitor in the event or a designated rescue boat. 2.) By one team member transferring their clearly marked fish to another boat as described above and proceeding directly to the weigh in. 3.) If a tournament official cannot be reached or an official tournament boat is not able to assist, the team with mechanical problems may seek assistance from a fellow competitor or any vessel on the water. This may **not** be done by phone or transmitting on the radio **to link up with a particular team**. Physically flagging down another boat would be allowed or a radio call that was seeking help from **any** boat in proximity to return to the weigh-in site. No one in that rescue boat is allowed to fish until after proceeding directly to weigh in site and all parties communicating directly with tournament officials. Arriving late, because of offering or needing assistance, even with the aid of a rescue boat, as the towed boat or the towing boat is still late and all late or other penalties will apply. No exceptions. Both parties (the team with boat trouble and team lending assistance) should file separate incident reports with tournament officials. **Any Team involved in a break down "Ride In" that involves transferring fish in which either boat/team wins/places high in that event, in the Tournament Officials sole opinion, WILL BE POLYGRAPHED.**

**11. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not at the official safety check-in point as described above at the appointed return time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Big Fish Award". Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." Return time shall be defined as off-plane and plainly visible by the official timekeepers.

**12. SCORING:** Scoring shall be determined by pound\ounce weight of each team's catch during the tournament. Each team's total weight will determine the final standings. Walleye, sauger and saugeye will be weighed where permissible by state law. Length and bag limits of eligible fish will be set and announced prior to the start of each event.

All fish weighed must be kept in aerated livewells to keep fish alive and fresh as possible for release. Any fish mauled, mashed, frozen, stringered, containing foreign or unnaturally placed matter to add weight or showing white gills, soft flesh or

other signs of decomposition in tournament official's sole discretion will result in disqualification. All balancing weights, markers, buoys or attachments must be removed before fish are presented at the bump tank. Balancing weights or other attachments in the bump sink will result in a 1-pound penalty. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the stated event possession limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision. In the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, officials shall cull, starting with the largest fish first, etc., down to the stated limit.

The official ruler will be "The Judge." Fish will be measured by a tournament official with fish's mouth closed and longest straight line. Only fish which measure the official length(s) shall be weighed in. Any fish presented for weigh-in which fails to measure the official length limits shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal fish. Once a competitor's catch has been presented to tournament officials, that team may not alter nor add to their catch or return to their boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded.

**13. CATCH & RELEASE:** An 8-ounce deduction will be made for each legal fish presented to the bump master for weighing that is determined to be dead. Every boat must have adequate livewell space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition, a limit catch by competitors using the boat. MWC recommends the use of livewell additives such as G-Juice and ice, in warmer water months to improve oxygen levels and promote a healthy release of fish into natural habitat. Tournament Officials shall have the sole responsibility for accessing any penalty points or for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate."

**14. TIES & POINTS:** If a tie occurs at an event, Tie breakers are as follows. 1.) Most number of legal fish weighed, 2.) Most number of legal fish weighed alive, 3.) Heaviest single days catch, 4.) Second heaviest single days catch, 5.) Means selected by tournament officials. However, no cash awards will be given to any zero weights. For a tie in the Team of the Year standings, WWC point standings or other qualifying positions 1.) Most number of legal fish weighed in counted scores, 2.) Most number of legal fish weighed alive in counted scores, 3.) Prior event yearly points standings, 4.) Next closest previous yearly standings in which there is no tie.

**2026 Points:** *In effort to better protect MWC anglers who are working to qualify for the World Walleye Championship or for the Team of The Year title as a season winds down and based on Anglers feedback. Teams who register for the last (2) events each year and have fished no other MWC events that year will receive no points as it takes a minimum of 3 events to qualify.* Otherwise, eligible MWC Teams in most cases will receive 2 sets of points added together as has been the case in the past: 1.) Performance-based points 2.) Weighted points based on field size. No Points will be awarded to teams that do not weigh fish: **Performance points:** 150 points for first place, 149 for second place, etc. with each place being reduced by one point down to the last team to weigh-in a fish. **Weighted Points Based on Field Size:** Qualified event participants will receive bonus points ADDED to performance points which are weighted based on field size so that ALL teams in each field size benefit. The larger the field-size the more bonus points are awarded to ALL participants as follows: For events with 50 or less teams zero - 0 - field size points are awarded. For 51-60 teams/3 points, 61-70 teams/6 points, 71-80 teams/9 points, 81-90 teams/12 points, 91-100 teams/15 points, 101-110 teams/18 points, 111-120 teams/21 points, 121-130 teams/24 points, 131 -140 teams/27 points, 141-150 teams 30 points, 151-160 teams/33 points 161-175 teams/36 points.

The Performance Points and field size Weighted Points will be added together to determine the team's total points for the tournament. Teams must check-in and launch at least one tournament day to be eligible for points. Points are distributed to teams and may not be transferred because of partner change except as defined in rule #18. In the event of unauthorized partner changes as defined by rule or otherwise, a partner change constitutes a new team.

**15. PROTESTS & TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS:** RANDOM TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS WILL BE GIVEN. An official written protest must be made with a tournament official within 15 minutes of the last flight check in time OR within 10 minutes of the last fish being weighed that day, whichever is latest. If you see a rules violation you should go directly to the Tournament Director to report it. **All contestants agreed to report any rule violation directly to the tournament director immediately upon discovery. Failure to report known violations immediately by an MWC angler is a rules violation in and of itself and may be cause for penalty as well.** If a protest is found valid, the disqualified party may be required to pay all investigative costs. Tournament officials, in their sole discretion, reserve the right to consider rule violations discovered at any time for any reason, by any persons, before or after a tournament has ended and assess penalties for any past or future event including denying entry to compete. Following interviews with concerned parties or truth verification testing if required, a final ruling will be made. In the event rules infractions occur a penalty of the tournament officials choosing may be applied, and cash, prizes and awards must be returned if requested.

Each participant agrees with submission of their entry form and by their participation in the event, to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analyzer test or Truth Verification Test, should they be asked to for any reason and to abide by its

conclusion. Tournament officials shall have sole discretion to select scope, when, where and who shall administer such an exam. Participants will make themselves available at their own expense for testing as scheduled. In the official's sole discretion, refusal to submit to exam or failure to pass a truth verification exam will result in disqualification.

**16. PREMIER TEAMS & SUBSTITUES: PREMIER TEAM REGISTRATION MUST BE MADE BEFORE YOUR FIRST EVENT**

- Premier teams are those teams that support the circuit by signing up and committing to fish three (3) or more events **BEFORE** registration closes for their first event of the season. You CANNOT sign up for premier team status after that. Premier teams are committed to paying for all events signed up for even if something happens that prohibits their attendance. There are no refunds even for NON-Premier teams, however there are some nice perks for Premier teams such as use of a predesignated substitute if needed, delayed billing and guaranteed spots and more. Premier teams **WILL NOT** be given preferential treatment by MWC that might give them a competitive advantage in any single event, to help them place better, start earlier, etc., that the playing field should be level for all. However, MWC premier teams do have a list of benefits for their support of MWC. Premier teams (only) will be allowed to designate a substitute member to be considered for use just in case a team member is UNABLE to attend with the following restrictions; A designated substitute must be identified as your team's substitute in advance by full legal name with MWC national office PRIOR to you fishing your first event, unless otherwise approved by MWC and MUST be a TWF member or join. Your regular team member must be UNABLE to attend. Substitute team members cannot be nor ever have been a professional guide, Pro angler, nor won a state, regional or national event on the body of water they are being utilized for. If the substitute is not activated, they may not be in the boat during tournament hours in no case will more than two team members be actively fishing in any boat during tournament hours. For all participants a spouse, immediately family member or your under-age child who meet all other conditions contained herein may be utilized in **the case of verified unavoidable emergency**. Tournament Officials must agree that: a.) original partner CANNOT attend, b.) The designated substitute is not a "ringer" or local expert and must investigate and approve a substitution on a case-by-case basis. **IF ALL these conditions are met with official approval**, an official team substitute can replace a team member who CANNOT attend an event and team points will NOT be lost. Please use this benefit as it is intended which is to help keep you fishing if your partner is UNABLE and CANNOT attend an event, it is NOT intended to give you a substitution to use anytime you wish to gain a competitive advantage and will not be allowed as such. MWC reserves the right to STOP or alter this benefit if attempts to abuse it get out of hand. Do not attempt to abuse this customer service benefit or in MWC's sole judgment it will cease for all anglers and abusers will be identified.

**17. TOURNAMENT "OFFICIALS":** An event official or officially approved media person may approach or board your boat at any time for any reason and at any time during the event, refusal to allow an approved official on board or to impede their work may result in disqualification.

**18. STANDINGS, AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS:** MWC pays out over 100% in cash and prizes each year. (In 2025 MWC total paid back was over 140%). Payout for each event will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting and will be based on the total number of paid teams entered with a minimum payback of 80% in cash and prizes distributed to 20% of the field. The remaining amounts are earmarked to help fund the World Walleye Championship, Team of the Year and other awards.

**WORLD WALLEYE CHAMPIONSHIP – NEW FOR 2026** – As forewarned in the 2025 rules and based on angler feedback, the 2026 World Walleye Championship will be a one-time DUAL event for 2025 and 2026 qualifiers as we transition to a year end championship instead of a year later championship. *Also as previously advised in the 2025 rules for this transition year field will be twice the size and both years funds earmarked for a WWC will be paid out in cash and prizes based on entries in 2025 and entries in 2026. We will simply put them together into one pot. As recently announced and new for 2026 a NEW Nitro boat in as the first-place prize! As always, we pay back more than 100% in cash and prizes every season!*

Teams invited to the 2026 World Walleye Championship from the 2025 and 2026 season shall be: Top 40 places from best of three (3) point standings. In addition, the 2025 MWC World Walleye Champions and all 2025 and 2026 MWC Qualifying Tournament winners who fished 3 or more events will be invited ONLY if they do not already have a spot. Then MWC **WILL** go down the list to fill the field to 40 boats as outlined below. MWC reserves the right to introduce new events, qualifiers and/or spots to the championship or refuse participation to any team for any reason. Any team disqualified and/or banned from participation in MWC events can also be disqualified and/or banned from any championship. There is a **NEW LOWER \$650 Championship entry fee** per team for the **2026 World Walleye Championship** of which 100% will be paid back in cash **PLUS** the balance of funds allocated to the WWC and collected throughout the 2025 AND 2026 regular seasons. Each team who competes in **all** days of the WWC for which they are qualified receives a prize. The bottom 50% of the field will receive a minimum of \$100 in cash cards and the top 50% of the field will be allocated the cash prizes. Final payout for all places is based on final entry numbers and will be announced at the WWC rules meeting.

Teams can only qualify for the World Walleye Championship once. The first spot they earn is the spot they must take and the order they will be taken will be; The 2025 seasons previously announced list of qualifiers, 2026 Top 40 from best of 3 WWC Points. Along with the following possible bonus spots **ONLY IF they are not already qualified**: Any special event winners, 2026 Qualifier winners if eligible. If we do not have at least a 40-boat field confirmed in form the 2026 qualifiers points standings from we will go down the list in order, starting with Premier teams first, past 40<sup>th</sup> place until the field is set at 40 using the 2026 best of 3 standings. Teams may fish as many events as they wish, only a team's top 3 scores will be used for WWC qualification standings. No partner changes are allowed during the year for the Championship or for accumulating qualifying points as a team, with the exceptions defined in rule 18 above on substitutions. For all others, if one partner is unable to fish the Championship or a qualifying tournament, the remaining partner may fish alone, with an MWC-appointed, non-fishing observer, or at the discretion of the MWC.

**2026 TEAM OF THE YEAR (TOY):** Teams fishing at least 4 events are eligible to compete for overall 2026 MWC Team of the Year race. Which for 2026 will be awarded at the 6<sup>th</sup> and final qualifier of the year which is Cass Lake. **Be advised** this is planned to be the last year for this TOY timeline. Final decision is TBD, but advance planning is that in 2027 the TOY will also count their finish in the 2027 World Walleye Championship in their points totals and 2027 TOY will be awarded at the 2027 WWC is the draft plan.

**2026 Team of the Year (TOY) Sponsorship Package** – A sponsorship package valued up to **\$10,000.00** will be awarded to the 2026 MWC “Living The Dream” Team of the Year consisting of: Fully paid entry fee into the 2027 BPS/Cabela’s NTC including lodging provided for up to 6 nights at location of our choosing, A maximum of (4) 2027 MWC event entry fees paid for you (must be the same team no exceptions) and will include a maximum of 5 nights at location of our choosing and a travel expense stipend of \$400.00 per paid event. Custom Team of the Year jackets & custom trophies. There will be no substitutions to this package. *In addition, other valuable advancement opportunities may be offered and are TBA.*

2026 Teams accumulating enough points from any 4 events to finish in the next (4) spots (2-5th) will all be awarded a cash and prizes as follows; 2<sup>nd</sup> place TOY, \$1,000.00 cash + 2026 BPS/Cabela’s NTC slot with entry fee paid + one paid entry into any MWC qualifying of choice for 2026, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$500.00 cash + 2026 BPS/Cabela’s NTC slot with entry fee paid + one paid entry into any MWC qualifying of choice for 2026, 4<sup>th</sup> place, \$250 Cash + 2026 BPS/Cabela’s NTC slot with entry fee paid; 5<sup>th</sup> place, \$200.00 cash + 2026 BPS/Cabela’s NTC slot with entry fee paid; 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> places will receive a \$100.00 in Gift Cards. If a team already has an NTC spot secured the next highest team on the TOY list that does not have a spot will be awarded an unpaid spot. There will be no substitutions or changes made to all these packages and they are non-transferable. *In addition, other valuable advancement opportunities may be offered and are TBA.*

**QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT WINNERS:** All qualifying tournament winners will receive a berth in the 2026 World Walleye Championship as long as they fish three (3) MWC qualifiers that season. They will also receive a 2026 BPS/Cabela’s NTC \$1000 prize package (if they are not already qualified). There will be no substitutions or changes made to this package, and it is non-transferable

**19. PATCHES, SIGNAGE & PROMOTIONS:** MWC has no intention of restricting the use of logos, patches or signage and encourages their use to promote your various supporters. MWC does reserve the right to restrict a logo that is deemed offensive. Realizing we are in a TV \ media \ sponsorship field that MAY sometimes restrict the use of some signage MWC reserves the right to restrict the use of such signage in our promotional endeavors with as much advance notice as possible. Further all anglers agree to use all "Official" products, equipment or jerseys so specified and provided by MWC if asked to in our efforts to promote MWC, TWF, youth, conservation and clean waters, if applicable. Further if you are being filmed for television no tobacco products may be used while filming.

**20. WALLEYE CONSERVATION:** As part of our commitment to the preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife, all MWC participants and TWF/MWC will donate money in support of walleye & fisheries where our events are held. Each MWC entry fee includes \$7.50 for each team; MWC match's that with \$7.50 per team for a total of \$15 per team. Those funds are earmarked by TWF/MWC as walleye support, fish care and conservation funds. These funds will be leveraged at MWC's sole discretion for walleye conservation projects and wherever possible with local, state or federation matching funds to make them go as much as 3 times farther in support of walleye conservation.

**REGISTER ONLINE AT: [MastersWalleyeCircuit.com](http://MastersWalleyeCircuit.com)**

**Or call us 580-765-9031 - Fax-580-765-2890, Masters Walleye Circuit, 5998 N Pleasant View Road, Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601, Tournament Director Hotline 580-761-4291**



## PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY

### READ BEFORE SIGNING

Team #

### List Everyone In The Boat By Name

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in ANY event(s), and/or related activities conducted by any Federation Angler affiliated groups including but not limited to; The Bass Federation, (TBF), SAF, NBAA, MWC, NABC, TWF or an affiliated State Federation and all other affiliated events either jointly or separately, **I also agree to receive their event communications through text messages or email blasts and fully understand that I can opt out of those messages anytime. I further understand if I do opt out of them, I forfeit any claims to not being notified about any subject that may affect my chances to compete or my safety.** I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that: **The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; AND, I have been advised by the event organizers and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; AND, I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ORGANIZERS and/or, their officers, officials, directors, shareholders, agents, and/or employees, other participants, and sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, their parent and affiliate companies and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises and property used to conduct the event OR any others connected to the event (collectively "RELEASEES"), AND HEREBY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND, I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official; AND I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS "RELEASEES", WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.**

I agree to submit, by signature on this document, to a truth verification test, and abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at the organizer's sole discretion, and administered by its agents. I understand that failure to pass the exam as determined by the event organizers will result in disqualification. I certify that the number shown on these forms is my correct taxpayer identification number.

**Having fully acquainted myself with the tournament rules,** I have completed this application and submit it for my entry. In signing this application, and by my presence at the event, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, participant release of liability and safety regulations. If I am an equipment operator or a boat operator, I understand as the captain/operator of a vessel or any piece of equipment that I am solely responsible for the safe operation of it and for the safety of any and all occupants in it at all times. I expressly assume all risks associated with the event. If I am using a boat during the official practice or the event, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage, excess medical, watercraft liability and/or contractors' insurance having a reasonable limit. Said insurance must cover any and all injury and/or damage incurred in connection with the event. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. I certify that training compliant with the Youth Safe Sports Act of 2017 has been made available to me this year if I am participating in a youth event. I hereby waive my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same, video/audio productions and/or articles and press releases by the event organizers, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere at any time, through any medium or media. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever.

**The Participant(s) signifies by their signature below that they have read and understands the foregoing provisions.**

**Angler A -** Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Angler B -** Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat Captain (if applicable) -** Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF MINORITY AGE PARTICIPANTS-** As parent/guardian for this participant with legal responsibility, I do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above and of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities, incidents to minor child's participation, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE of the Releasees.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_ **A - PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE** EMERG. PH # (s) : \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**X** \_\_\_\_\_ **B - PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE** EMERG. PH # (s) : \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_