

CORMORANT TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

SUBJECT TO ANY MINNESOTA DNR TOURNAMENT REGULATION CHANGES

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Contestants must enter as two-person teams. Any person under 16 years of age must be teamed with their parent or guardian.
- B. A late fee of \$20.00 will be assessed to all teams registering after Wednesday, September 21, 2011. A \$25.00 service charge per team will be retained on all refunds of entry regardless of cancellation date. Under no circumstances will teams be allowed to enter after close of the Rules Meeting.
- C. Each contestant must have in his or her possession a valid fishing license from the State of Minnesota. Any person cited for violating state fishing or boating regulations during fishing hours will automatically have their team disqualified from the tournament.
- D. F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc, Camp Cormorant, or other sponsors and their corporations, agencies, agents are not to be held responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire, or any loss. Entrants will in effect sign a waiver upon signing the entry form.
- E. This is a release tournament. All fish are released after weigh-in, except for trophy fish for mounting purposes.

2. SAFETY

- A. All boats will be required to meet U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations as well as those of the State of Minnesota. Safe boating conduct and all safety precautions must be observed at all times.
- B. Each contestant will be required to have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD). It must be worn at all times when the main combustion engine is operating at anything above trolling speed.
- C. No alcoholic beverages are allowed during tournament hours. Drunkenness by any competitor during tournament hours will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification.
- D. Contestants may not leave their boat during tournament hours. In the event of thunderstorms or lightening, contestants are allowed to put into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing.

3. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Live bait and artificial lures are permissible. All fish must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner on hook and line. All fishing must be done from a tournament-inspected boat.
- B. Each contestant will be allowed a maximum of one line in the water at any time. Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat.
- C. Cell phones, CB or marine radios are allowed for emergency use only. Transmitting information over a radio or phone concerning any aspect of the taking of fish during the tournament is prohibited and grounds for disqualification. The use of any type of binocular is strictly forbidden and will be grounds for disqualification.
- D. Only live fish will qualify for tournament weigh-in. Judgement by the officials is final. All fish weighed must be kept and carried in aerated live wells or aerated coolers. The use of stringers, wire baskets, boat bags or other means of keeping fish are prohibited.

4. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS

- A. Fishing is permitted on Big Cormorant Lake only. No Fish from any other lake are permitted.
- B. YMCA Camp on the west shore will serve as the tournament headquarters. All tournament boats will start from and return to the YMCA Camp during the tournament.

5. FISHING HOURS

- A. Boats must be available for the pre-start inspection before being allowed to leave in the flight.
- B. Fishing hours start at 8:00 AM with the field in single file. Flights will be announced at the rules meeting. Return starts at 4:00 PM. The field will be reversed on the final day.
- C. Contestants who return later than the assigned time, or who leave at an earlier time will be disqualified for that day.
- D. No contestant is permitted on the lake Sept 24th or Sept 25th except during tournament hours except for the sole purpose of entering from or exiting at other access points on the lake. Contestants being on the lake for any other reason must have written permission from the tournament directors. Pre-tournament practice is allowed anytime up to 4:00 pm September 23rd, 2011.

6. SCORING

- A. One team member must pass through the weigh-in line each day, even if the team has no fish to register. Failure to pass through the weigh-in line will result in disqualification. This is a safety precaution, to insure that all teams have made it safely off the water at the end of each day's fishing.
- B. Fish may be weighed at any time during fishing hours.
- C. A team may weigh only two (2) fish 20 inches or longer in total length per day. Any team attempting to weigh in more than two (2) walleyes over 20 inches in length per day will be automatically disqualified.
- D. All fish not measuring at least 15 inches will be disqualified and the final weight of the disqualified fish will be deducted from the team's legal weight as a penalty.
- E. The tournament daily possession limit is 6 fish per team. Each team may weigh 6 fish per day. Culling is allowed with 6 fish or less in possession.
- F. Only live fish will be eligible for weigh-in. Dead fish will count towards your daily limit, but will not count towards the day's weight. Any fish showing any sign of tampering, such as stringer holes, injection with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight, may result in disqualification at the discretion of the tournament directors or weigh in officials.
- G. Prizes are awarded to teams except the Big Fish plaque is awarded to an individual.
- H. In the event of ties, final placing will be determined by the greatest weight taken on the final day.

7. BIG FISH

- A. The team must declare any Big Fish to be weighed at the tournament scale.

8. PROTESTS

- A. The Tournament Committee, or any contestant, has a right to protest another team or contestant. The protest must be filed in writing with the Tournament Director no later than one (1) hour after the close of that day's tournament fishing hours. A three (3) person protest committee shall be appointed by the Tournament Director prior to the tournament and will convene to hear all sides of any protest. The decision of the protest committee shall be final in all cases. A \$200 protest fee must accompany a written protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. If the protest is invalid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs, including polygraph. If the protest is invalid, the fee will not be returned.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. All questions or problems connected with the rules of this tournament are to be referred to the tournament director(s) or committee prior to the conclusion of the rules meeting.
- B. Contestants are not permitted to fish within twenty (20) yards of another boat at any time. No contestant's boat may pull up to another boat during tournament hours.
- C. Patrol and safety boats, Conservation officers and Sheriff's Dept boats may pull up and inspect contestants at any time. Anyone found cheating will be immediately disqualified and the reasons for that disqualification announced at weigh-in.
- D. Disqualification for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee.
- E. All rules have "loopholes". It is the intention of the sponsors to provide an honest sportsmanlike tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the spirit of the rule will prevail in all cases.
- F. Contestants will be responsible for any applicable taxes due on any prizes.

10. RULES MEETING

- A. One member of each team is required to attend the rules meeting on Friday September 23, 2011 at 6:00 PM, at Camp Cormorant.