

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic

June 10, 2023

Registration

All registrations for 2023 will be processed through the 2023 KCWC Walleye Classic registration portal at www.kcwalleyeclassic.com.

Phase 1: Registration begins on February 1, 2023, for returning intact Teams from 2022. The 2023 KCWC is a 100-team event. Intact 2022 teams receive priority to enter the 2023 Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic. To receive priority for participation in this year's tournament, your completed Tournament Entry along with the Entry Fee of \$480.00 per team must be received on the tournament website by February 28, 2023.

Phase 2: Open for a returning 2022 registered angler with a new partner. Registration for Phase 2 will open at 8:00 AM on March 1 and must be completed by March 7, 2023. A password is necessary to register for Phase 2. The password will be sent to the team captain in February 2023. These openings will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Phase 3: Any team openings remaining on or after 8:00 A.M. March 8, 2023, will be opened to the public on a first-come-first-served basis. During Phase 3, a waiting list will be established for any teams over 100.

Tournament Rules

The Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 7:00 AM (CDT) to 4:00 PM (CDT). The fishing tournament is an event of the Knights of Columbus, Bemidji Council #1544, and has been authorized and permitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. All participants must comply with all terms and conditions of the permit. A copy of the permit is available upon request.

The Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic is restricted to Lake Bemidji and Lake Irving. The tournament will be a Catch-Photo-Release contest as explained below. At the conclusion of the Tournament, awards and prizes will be presented at the Bemidji Waterfront.

All participants in the KCWC Tournament will be required to abide by the following KCWC Rules and Minnesota DNR Fishing regulations.

All participants must comply with all Minnesota boating and fishing laws and regulations, as well as the following tournament rules:

1. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the KCWC Tournament Director, and the decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters. The Tournament Director will appoint judges to aid in verifying registered fish.
2. A team must have two (2) contestants and must fish from the same boat. One (1) team per boat. Each team member must sign an official online entry form and waiver to participate in the tournament.
3. Entry fee per team is \$480 plus fees (\$497.10).
4. One team member must always wear the official tournament hat during the tournament.

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5. All participants are required to use the official fishing tournament app on their phones to photograph and verify the length of fish to be counted on their virtual stringer.
6. All contestants competing in this event are expected to always act in a sportsman-like manner toward non-competitors and competitors alike. Violators of this rule will be disqualified.
7. All boats must depart from official tournament headquarters at designated start time in numerical order. Boats will take off one by one and will receive the "go ahead" from the start boat after displaying your boat number. Prior to take-off, boat numbers are assigned by random drawing and all boats must be positioned in order by boat number as specified by the Tournament Director. Take-off will occur on schedule. Any boat that is out of order or delaying the start of the field will be held to the end of the line.
8. All fish must be caught live on a hook and line in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish (that is, not hooked per state regulations) will have their entire catch disqualified.
9. When returning by 4P.M., each boat must pass in front of the start/finish boat and display your boat number to the start/finish boat to signify you are in. Check-in is mandatory, fish or no fish!
10. Failure to return the assigned KCWC Bump Board may result in disqualification from the Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic.
11. If you are up to 15 minutes late, you will be penalized 50% of your weight. After 15 minutes, your team is disqualified.
12. No pre-fishing after 12:00 PM on Friday June 9, 2023, is allowed and no fishing may start until after 7:00 AM on June 10, 2023.
13. Promoters, tournament directors, organizations, and sponsors are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire, or loss of any kind to entrants.
14. There is a strict no alcohol or illegal drugs in the boat rule. If found in violation an immediate disqualification from this event will take place.
15. The Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic does not discriminate based on race, creed, color, or gender. We reserve the right to refuse entry to any individuals who have been barred or disqualified from any tournament for rules violations.
16. By entering the KCWC Walleye Classic, each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph or voice-stress examination if necessary and abide by its conclusion.
17. The violation of any rule, as determined by the judges in their sole discretion, shall result in automatic disqualification from the tournament and ineligibility for prizes or awards. All judge's decisions will be final and may not be challenged.

Rules Meeting

1. Rules & registration meeting will be hosted at 2:00 PM sharp, June 9, 2023, at the Eagles in Bemidji.
2. One team member of each team must attend the rules meeting and be in attendance by the start of the meeting or they may have their entry filled by an alternate team; both team members are encouraged to attend the meeting.
3. Fishing times will be flighted by a random drawing at the rules meeting.

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Scoring

1. Winners will be determined by total assigned weight of up to **SIX (6)** walleyes per 2-person team. Anglers may submit all walleye over 14". The tournament app software will automatically select the best six fish entered by each team.
2. A qualifying team's catch will be measured and recorded by contestants using the tournament app. Tournament Judges will review angler submissions to verify submitted fish. The software assigns a weight to each fish based upon exact length. Participants are required to use the tournament supplied bump board ruler while recording your fish.
3. In the event of a tie, the team registering the largest fish with the tournament app captures the place and the second team to register the same total length drops to the next place. In the event both team's largest fish are the same length, the first team to register the largest fish captures the place and the tying team drops to the next place.

KCWC Catch- Record-Release Procedure

ONCE A FISH IS LANDED - Open the tournament app to take photos directly from there. The tournament App will only allow photos taken during Tournament Fishing Hours. It is your responsibility to train on and test the App before the tournament.

1. SCORING SHOT- FIRST-

- a. Place fish on the Official KCWC Bump Board with the left side up with the belly of the fish facing the team member measuring the fish.
- b. The mouth of the fish must be closed and MUST touch the bump plate on the ruler to the LEFT (Head to Left), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length using the pinched tail method on the RIGHT end of the ruler (Tail to the Right). You may not insert anything inside the gill plate of the fish while measuring.
- c. The partners agree on the length of the fish to 1/4th inch accuracy. If the fish tail is touching the graduation line on the board, then that is the exact measurement. If the tail crosses the graduation line, round up 1/4".
- d. While the fish is being held on the ruler, scoring photos must be taken of the fish which clearly shows the overall length of the fish. The HEAD and TAIL of the fish must be included and show clearly. The photograph must be taken of the LEFT side of the fish ONLY. A photo that does not clearly show the overall length of the fish, including head and tail, and the left side of the fish on the ruler **WILL NOT BE SCORED**. More than one attempt to get a valid scoring photo is allowed.

2. HERO SHOT SECOND

- a. Photo must be taken of the right side of fish being held up by one team member.

3. RELEASE VIDEO OF FISH GOING BACK INTO THE WATER- Not Required

- a. ***Video of release of fish back to the water may be submitted by anglers.*** Fish must be released immediately.

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4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- a. In the instance when two fish are caught at the same time, the KCWC process requires that one fish must be measured, photographed, and released as quickly as possible before the next fish can be processed. The livewell may be used to keep the 2nd fish, however, the second fish must be processed immediately upon releasing the 1st fish. ***Fish may not be kept in the livewell for any other reason.***
- b. Delays in releasing fish may be grounds for team disqualification.
- c. To speed up the Catch, Record, Release process, while a fish is in the boat, anglers will NOT be allowed to reset or place any fishing lines in the water. After all fish are photographed and released, normal angling may resume.
- d. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be validated only at the discretion of KCWC Officials and Tournament Director. Any fish that are deemed altered by an angler may result in Team disqualification.
- e. It is the responsibility of each team member to familiarize themselves with the tournament APP prior to the event and be fully capable of operating the APP. App training videos and demo opportunities are available on the KCWC website.

Angler Disputes

1. If you see another angler doing what you believe is a rules violation, follow these steps if possible:
 - a. Take out your camera and take a picture or video of the offender.
 - b. Call the tournament director immediately and explain the situation.
 - c. Upon return to the docks meet with the tournament director.
2. A protest of any kind regarding angler disputes or allegations of dishonesty must be filed with the tournament director before 4:30PM on June 10, 2023. A \$250.00 fee is required with the protest which will be refunded if found to be valid. A protest committee will consist of two (2) tournament officials and three (3) randomly selected contestants. The committee findings are final. If the committee recommends a polygraph test, monies will be withheld until the results of the investigation are known.
3. The violation of any rule, as determined by the judges in their sole discretion, shall result in automatic disqualification from the tournament and ineligibility for prizes or awards. All judges' decisions will be final and may not be challenged.

Boats

1. All boats must be checked in and tagged by a tournament official before the start of the tournament at tournament headquarters.
2. All storage compartments and live wells must be accessible to tournament officials prior to tournament start.
3. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed during tournament hours unless the team has checked in.
4. No marine radio or other electronic communication is allowed during tournament hours except for emergency or to contact tournament headquarters. Cell phones may only be used to operate the tournament app.

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5. Binoculars are strictly prohibited in any boat.
6. No underwater cameras will be allowed during tournament hours.
7. At no time during tournament hours is a contestant to leave their boat unless you return to tournament headquarters and permission is granted by a tournament official.

Weather Emergencies

1. Use safe judgment during inclement weather. If there is a need to clear the lake, the fishing tournament will resume when the tournament director deems the lake safe. Emergency notification for tournament closures and restarting will be communicated through the KCWC texting system. Weather emergencies will also be announced by KCWC text.

Contact Information

In case of mechanical breakdowns, tournament questions, possible rule infractions or other issues, the Tournament Director may be reached at **320-293-4515**.

Mechanical Breakdowns

1. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the team must contact Tournament Director to inform them of the situation. A competitor is not required to assist another team and does so only with Tournament Director's approval. Boarding into another competitor's boat is not permitted.

Towing another boat with Mechanical Breakdown

1. Only with approval from Tournament Director, a team, broken down, may be allowed to be towed in by another tournament boat.
2. Tow boat or disabled boat teams are not allowed to fish any longer, must stay in their assigned boats and must go directly to Tournament headquarters to report in with Tournament Director.
3. Both the boat being towed, and the tow boat are subject to any late penalties and must be in at designated time. No exceptions.

Returning to Tournament after Mechanical Breakdown

1. Time permitting, teams may be allowed to head back on to tournament waters and return to tournament action only with approval from Tournament Director. Teams must still return at their designated time.
2. Running out of gas, dead batteries and other mechanical breakdowns are not exempt from any late penalties.

For more information, please contact Tournament Director John Marcum at bowhunterjohn@gmail.com
or visit our website: www.kcwalleyeclassic.com
Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic is an event of the Knights of Columbus Council #1544.
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