

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic

June 13, 2026

Registration

All registrations for 2026 will be processed through the KCWC Walleye Classic registration portal at www.kcwalleyeclassic.com.

The 2026 KCWC is a 100-team event. The field will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Phase 1: Registration begins on February 1, for returning anglers from last year's KC Walleye Classic- whether returning as an intact team or returning with a new partner. Your completed Tournament Entry along with the entry fees must be received on the tournament website by February 28, 2026.

Phase 2: On March 1, 2026, registration opens for new anglers. Entry Deadline is one week before the date of the Rules Meeting

Waitlist: A waiting list will be established after the 100-team field is filled.

- in the event a paid registered team including a "last year returning angler" contacts the committee chairman asking to replace the partner due to a legitimate- as determined by the committee chairman- a partner change will be allowed as long as the "last year returning angler" remains on the team. If in this case, the remaining team member is not a "last year returning angler" the team drops to the bottom of the waitlist.**
- In the event of any other team dropping out, the next team on the waiting list will be notified. The tournament will continue to contact Wait List teams in the order received to fill the spot. If a fully paid alternate fills the opening prior to the entry deadline, the dropped team will be eligible for a 50% refund of the tournament entry fee. SportsEngine fees are not refundable.**

Rules Meeting

1. Rules & registration meeting will be hosted at 2:00 PM sharp, on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Sanford Center. Failure to register and check-in before start of rules meeting will result in team disqualification.
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. Starting order for teams is determined by a random drawing at the rules meeting. Teams will receive their boat number stickers and numbered bump board at the rules meeting.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

Tournament Rules

The Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 7:00 AM (CDT) to 3:30 P.M. (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 Sanford Center.

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.

GENERAL RULES

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 \$500 plus fees (\$517.75.) Cash payouts are based on filling the tournament with 100 teams. KCWC Tournament Committee Officials reserve the right to adjust cash/prize payouts if the tournament is not filled.
4. One team member must always wear the official tournament hat during the tournament
5. 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.
6. All contestants competing in this event are expected to always act in a sportsman-like manner toward non-competitors and competitors alike.
7. The official bump board must be returned to the Sanford Center no later than 5:00PM. Failure to return the assigned KCWC Bump Board may result in disqualification from the Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic.
8. No pre-fishing after 12:00 PM on Friday, June 12, 2026, is allowed and no fishing may start until after 7:00 AM on June 13, 2026.
9. Alcohol, cannabis, or illegal drugs are not permitted in the boat. Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification from this event.
10. 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

11. Promoters, tournament directors, organizations, and sponsors are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire, or loss of any kind to entrants.
12. The Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic does not discriminate based on race, creed, color, or gender.
13. The KCWC Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any individuals who have been barred or disqualified from any tournament for rules violations.

COMMUNICATIONS DURING TOURNAMENT

14. 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.
15. The Tournament APP will start recording at 7:00 AM and will stop recording at 3:30PM.
16. Any cellular phone and radio communications (broadcasting and/or monitoring) during tournament hours, other than contact with tournament director, submitting fish documentation, or in case of emergency, or for safety reasons is prohibited.

BOATS

17. All boats must be checked in and tagged by a tournament official before the start of the tournament at the Lake Bemidji Waterfront.
18. All storage compartments and live wells must be accessible to tournament officials prior to the tournament start.
19. Binoculars and underwater cameras are prohibited.
20. All boats must depart from Lake Bemidji Waterfront 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.
21. At no time during tournament hours is a contestant to leave their boat unless you return to the Lake Bemidji Waterfront or tournament headquarters at the Sanford Center and permission is granted by a tournament official.
- 22. 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.**

Scoring

1. Winners will be determined by total assigned weight of up to **FIVE (5)** walleyes per 2-person team. Anglers may submit all walleye over 14". The tournament app software will select the best FIVE fish entered by each team **with no more than 2 of those fish over 20 inches.** **The partners agree on the length of the fish to 1/4 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 ¼ inch.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

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 IMAGE- FIRST

- a. Place fish on the Official KCWC Bump Board with the left side up. (The belly of the fish should face the team member measuring the fish.)
- b. The mouth of the fish should touch the bump plate on the ruler to the LEFT (Head to Left), and the tail is extended back to its maximum length on the RIGHT end of the ruler (Tail to the Right). You may not insert anything inside the gill plate or manipulate the fish while measuring.
- c. The partners agree on the length of the fish to 1/4 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 ¼ inch.
- d. While the fish is being held on the ruler, scoring photos must be taken of the fish clearly showing 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 IMAGE- 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.

4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- a. Fish length should be recorded on the APP immediately after the fish is caught.
- b. 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 live well may be used to keep the 2nd fish, however, the second fish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

must be processed immediately upon releasing the 1st fish. ***Fish may not be kept in the live well for any other reason.***

- c. Delays in releasing fish may be grounds for team disqualification.
- d. After all fish are photographed and released, normal angling may resume.
- e. 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.
- f. 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 committing 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 4:00PM on June 13, 2026. A \$100.00 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's 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.

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.

Mechanical Breakdowns

1. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the team must contact the Tournament Director to inform them of the situation.

Towing another boat with Mechanical Breakdown

1. Only with approval from the 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.

Returning to Tournament after Mechanical Breakdown

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WALLEYE CLASSIC

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.

Contact Information

In case of mechanical breakdowns, tournament questions, possible rule infractions or other issues, the Tournament Director may be reached at 218-766-0527.

Legacy Teams

A legacy team is defined as a multi-generational, family team such as: Father- Son, Grandfather- Grandson, Mother- Daughter etc. Tournament director has final say if questions arise.

**For more information, please contact Tournament Director Phil Hodapp hodapp@paulbunyan.net
218-766-0527 or visit our website: www.kcwalleyeclassic.com.**

**Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic is an event of the Knights of Columbus Council #1544.
PO Box 1788, Bemidji, MN 56619**