

## 2017 CABELA'S NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIAL RULES

**1. RULES:** These rules & safety regulations are "time tested" and represent great, study and research in their formulation. The following rules will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to Tournament Officials. In the event of a rules violation, officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes prohibition from participation future events. Officials decisions shall be final in all matters and will not be subject to appeal.

**2. PARTICIPATION:** All NTC participants must be active members of The Walleye Federation, (TWF) or join/pay for a membership at time of registration. Memberships expire on 12/31 each year. Memberships are non-transferable and non-refundable. Any person under the age of 18 (19 for Alabama or Nebraska Residents) must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the liability release. No persons under age 12 may participate without explicit NTC approval, proof of age to the satisfaction of officials may be required. Participants must enter as two-person teams (no "Partner TBD" or unknown partner names on entry forms). Partner changes can be made up until the close of on-site registration/check in. Each team must complete, sign 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 particular boat. Proof of insurance must be with the boat at all times. Random checks may be conducted at events.

We reserve the right to refuse participation, including championship participation, to anyone, for any reason, including but not limited to suspension, disqualification or banning from this or other events, criminal behavior, violation of game laws, and unsportsmanlike behavior that would reflect dishonorably on our sport.

Participation is available only to teams qualified through an authorized qualifying tournaments, associations or NTC sidepots registered with TWF. It is the responsibility of the qualified teams to submit, in writing, their intent to participate.

**3. ENTRY:** Regular online registration opens (by private website link) on Friday January 13, 2017 and closes March 1, 2017 at which time spots will be reallocated. Entry deadline for all reallocated spots will be March 20, 2017. Each team must complete, sign and submit an official entry form along with payment by the published due dates. Participants must enter as two-person teams (no "Partner TBD" names on the entry forms). Partner changes can be made with approval up until the close of on-site registration/check in. Partner change must be from the same qualifying tournament, circuit or association. However, if an NTC qualifying Angler would like to fish with their MWC partner, the switch will be allowed as long as the tournament director receives the intent in writing and both NTC qualifying anglers agree to the switch. Only one of the NTC qualifying anglers will be allowed to fish the tournament as an NTC team. Tournament Officials reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to any deadline. All NTC participants must be active members of The Walleye Federation, (TWF) or join/pay for a membership at time of registration. The entry fee for each team per tournament is \$300. A payment must accompany each entry. Entries may be submitted online at [www.walleyefederation.com](http://www.walleyefederation.com) or faxed to 580.765.2890 or mailed to TWF – 5998 N Pleasant View Rd, Ponca City, OK 74601 Entrants must submit payment for entry fees in full for the tournament at the time of entry application. Any entry forms received after March 1, 2017 may incur a \$100 late fee. No refunds or credits are extended. Money order, check or credit cards are acceptable payments (VISA, MasterCard, Discover). A \$20 processing fee will be applied to all declined credit cards or NSF checks. Mailing address is NTC, 5998 N Pleasant View Road, Ponca City, Oklahoma. 74601 – P-580.765.2319 - Fax 580.765.2890

**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.

**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 and 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 rules meeting, all NTC participants must be off plane, within site of the boat launch and no longer fishing by 4pm local time. In case of emergency please contact us immediately on the **NTC tournament hot line at 580.716.4291**, or other designated contacts specified.

At least one (1) member of each team must sign in and register in person with official NTC staff at the appointed time and place prescribed for onsite registration in the tournament's fact sheet. At least one team member must be present for the mandatory rules and safety meeting held the afternoon/evening prior to each tournament. In the case 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 above) Otherwise, if a team arrives 15 minutes or more late without approval they will be disqualified.

All competitors and teams are subject to official inspection, boarding or a truth verification testing during and after the tournament and agree to facilitate and participate in those inspections at any time so requested. During the official competition day(s) competitors nor teams 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. During the tournament hours a competitor may not transmit by any form of communication including but not limited to a cell phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, texting, any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating, 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 tournament no competitor, team or teams may buy or barter a fish, fishing information or a fishing location.

**5. SAFETY & TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times. All participants are required and agree to wear a Coast Guard-approved type III or greater chest type personal flotation device anytime the boat is on plane. Tournament officials have 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. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time.

In the event of a storm, lightning, severe weather 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 and will result in disqualification. All NTC qualifying tournaments will have published days of competition, unless delayed or shortened due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Tournament boundaries or restricted fishing zones will be announced at the rules meeting and may be further restricted if needed.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Participants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times 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 could be grounds for disqualification or rejection of entry. Each competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field to help maintain the highest integrity of competition. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the event or use of alcohol until after you have weighed in 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.

**7. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Participants must possess all necessary fishing licenses and commit to following all regulations. All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting. NTC will follow state/local laws or lake limit's 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. Only fish caught on hook and line in a normal and usual manner will be accepted. Live bait and artificial lures are permissible in NTC events, except for any special tournaments announced and defined by NTC.

**8. BOAT, MOTOR & SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** All tournament boats are required to have in their possession all Coast Guard-required safety equipment, including but not limited to approved type III or greater chest type personal flotation devices, a type IV throw cushion, fire extinguisher, distress horn/flag/whistle, and display a boat marker (supplied by NTC). Great Lakes, Canadian border and some other waters require flares. Tournament boats are required to have a functioning bilge pump and a functional emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver anytime the boat is on plane. In addition it is recommended to have a marine band radio on board.

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 infected waters.

Tournament boats will be inspected for functioning and empty live-wells and operating emergency ignition stop switch. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility with safe methods and service open to all contenders and/or the public.

**9. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a livewell and SAFETY INSPECTION check by a tournament 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. NTC reserves sole discretion to assign boat numbers in any manner.

**10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by officials for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the NTC. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted within the boundaries defined by the tournament director that are available to the public and accessible by boat except: Any water within these tournament 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 strictly prohibited. Also, any live fish release area established by Tournament Officials 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 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 NTC staff members, appointed tournament official or sponsor service technician should ride along.

**11. 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 break down or emergency, in which a team is not able to 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 penalties will apply as they would to any other competitor. 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 or places high in that event, in the Tournament Officials sole opinion, WILL BE POLYGRAPHED.**

**12. OFFICIAL CHECK POINT:** There shall be an official safety checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all safety and tournament 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 check in at the end of the day could result in a \$50 fine or prohibition from future participation. It is each angler's responsibility to know what time they are due in.

**13. 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.

**14. SCORING:** Scoring shall be determined by the pound and 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 for each tournament and will be announced at each event.

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, 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. An external snap weight, the purpose of which is to keep fish alive/upright in the livewell, should be removed before arriving at the bump tank. Failure to do so will result in a 1 pound penalty for that day.

At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the stated tournament 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, where legal, 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 plus loss of the 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.

**15. PROTESTS & TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS:** RANDOMLY ANNOUNCED TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS MAY BE GIVEN. Anyone has a right to protest a team. An official written protest with \$150 fee must be made with a tournament official within 30 minutes of completion of daily weigh-in. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. Following interviews with concerned parties or truth verification testing if required, a final ruling will be made. In the event rules infractions occurred a penalty of daily and/or tournament weight may be applied, and cash, prizes and awards must be returned if so requested. If a protest is found valid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs.

Each competitor or participant agrees by their signature on the entry forms and by their participation in the tournament, to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analyzer test, I.E. 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. Participant 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.

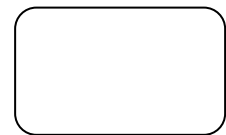
**16. CATCH & RELEASE:** An 8 ounce deduction will be made for each legal fish presented to the bump master for weighing that is determined to be dead. Every boat must have adequate livewell space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition a limit catch by competitors using the boat. NTC recommends the use of livewell additives 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 determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate" and for assessing any penalty points.

**17. TIES & POINTS:** If a tie occurs, 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.

**18. STANDINGS, AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS:** The top 25 NTC Teams will advance to Saturday's Final round. In addition, the 2017 Cabela's National Team Champions will be invited to the Cabela's Masters Walleye Circuits World Walleye Championship. No partner changes are allowed for the Championship. If one partner is unable to fish the Championship, the remaining partner may fish alone, with an NTC-appointed, non-fishing observer at their request or at the discretion of the NTC.

**19. PATCHES, SIGNAGE & PROMOTIONS:** NTC has no intention to restrict the use of logos, patches or signage and encourages their use to promote your various supporters. Realizing we are in a TV \ media \ sponsorship field that MAY sometimes restrict the use of some signage NTC 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 any and all "Official" products, equipment or jerseys so specified and provided by NTC if asked to in our efforts to promote NTC, 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. PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING**



In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in any events, programs or related activities conducted by The Walleye Federation, LLC (TWF), Cabelas, Inc. (cabelas) or the Cabela’s National Team Championship (NTC ), either jointly or separately, 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 event officials 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 WALLEYE FEDERATION. LLC , CABELA’S INC. and/or the CABELA’S NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, THEIR OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AGENTS, AND/OR EMPLOYEES, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY used to conduct the event (“RELEASEES”) OR OTHERS, AND 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 or 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 agree to submit, by signature on this document, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination. Hereinafter known as truth verification test, and abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at event officials sole discretion, and administered by TWF or its agents. I understand that failure to pass the examination as determined by TWF 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 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 PERMITTED BY LAW.

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. I expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament.

If I am using a boat during the official practice or during the tournament, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage\ watercraft liability insurance having reasonable limits. Said insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer and must cover injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this Tournament and cover the dates of the event(s). Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. I hereby wave 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 TWF, cabelas or NTC, 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. I am currently a member in good standing of The Walleye Federation. The Participant signifies by his/her signature below that they have read and understands the foregoing provisions.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_