2026 Goodlife Proteins Nebraska Walleye Series (NWS) – OFFICIAL RULES

goodlife PROTEINS NEBRASKA WALLEYE ESTD — SERIES — 2026

NWS expects strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. NWS also recommends the use of live well 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 or NWS Tournament Director or Board Member 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 body of water you are fishing.

2. **PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY:**

   Participants must enter as two person teams. Entry fees will be refunded only if the proper notification is made to the tournament directors prior to 7 days before the tournament. A $25.00 charge will be retained on all refund entry fees regardless of the cancellation date. Promoters, Tournament Directors and Organizers assisting in the tournament, their agencies, agents, etc. are NOT responsible for deaths, injuries, liability, damages, fire, theft, or any loss of any kind to contestants. Each entrant, upon signing an entry form is signing a waiver form.

3. **RULES MEETING:**

   At least one member of the team must attend the Rules Meeting for each of the NWS tournaments. Exceptions may be made if tournament director is contacted in advance. Location and time will be posted once via Facebook page once confirmed.

4. **SAFETY:**

   All participants are required to wear life jackets at the start of the tournament. Participants will be allowed to pull to the nearest shoreline in the event of a thunderstorm or an emergency. All boats must have all safety items required by the US Coast Guard.

5. **FISHING REGULATIONS:**

   Tournament fishing hours will be announced at each tournament's rules meetings. Flight times/order of launch will also be announced at this time. If any changes are made due to weather the Tournament Director will let everyone know ahead of time. Weigh-in slips must be validated/ signed at weigh in by at least one person on the team. All boats must pass the pre-fish inspection. All teams must be in the weigh in area before designated flight times. Team/s that are late will receive a one (1) pound penalty for each minute they are late up to fifteen minutes. Any team late will automatically be disqualified from that days weigh in and their fish will not be weighed. All fish MUST be alive in order to be weighed.

6. **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:**

   Nebraska/South Dakota Game and Parks rules and regulations must be followed at each respective lake NWS holds a tournament. All teams are subject to inspection by Tournament officials/Game & Parks Officials at any time. NWS or tournament officials are NOT responsible for any violations/tickets that any team may receive while fishing tournament. Both team members MUST possess a valid fishing permit.

7. **BOAT BREAKDOWN:**

   In the event of a boat breakdown, the team must notify the tournament director, and if approved it can be towed in by another tournament boat or other approved boat. No members are allowed to get in another team's boat with their fish to go to the weigh in. However, if not able to make it in by their designated flight time they are automatically disqualified from that days' weight.

8. **FISH SIZE & LIMITS:**

NWS will follow the regulations described in the Nebraska/South Dakota Game and Parks handbook or on Nebraska/South Dakota Game and Parks website. IF any of the regulations are altered for an NWS tourney this WILL be spelled out at the rules meeting of that respective tournament. For example, if NWS holds an E-Tournament or Catch/Photo/Video Release a different set of rules will be presented to the anglers. Boats may have 8 walleyes in the live well and of the 5 fish weighed in. The length of weighed in fish are by the NWS Scale/Ruler, not your own from your boat. The fish is legal length if it touches the line, this is also true for any other length measurement if it touches any part of the line it is considered that length. The tournament bag limit is 5 fish per two-man team. Sorting or Culling fish is prohibited and if caught it will result in disqualification from the NWS tournament.

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9. SCORING:

Payouts will be based on the most weight of walleyes caught in the tournament. Only live fish will be weighed (gills moving) any dead fish brought to the scale will be taken out and cannot be replaced unless it is announced at the rules meeting that it is a "kill tournament". Only weigh-in officials are permitted to touch fish on the measuring ruler. Weigh master has final say in fish weighed. In the event of ties, final placing will be determined by the heaviest single fish. The big fish will be determined by the team member weighing in the fish. Once the big fish is determined, weighed and recorded it cannot be replaced by another fish. Once the weight is given for the teams catch that day any team asks for a re-weigh if the second requested weight is smaller than the first weight the smaller weight will become the official weight for that team. If it is more that weight will be the official weight.

10. SPORTSMANSHIP:

In the interest of good sportsmanship, it is expected that competitors will not crowd or imped each other. Other than going to shore for adverse weather, not two contestants' boats may pull up to each other during tournament hours. Patrol and safety boats may pull up and inspect contestants at any time. Anyone found cheating will be disqualified immediately and the reason will be announced at weigh-in. The use of CELL PHONES or BINOCULARS in order to gain an advantage is strictly prohibited and may result in immediate disqualification. Fish may be weighed in at anytime during the fishing hours. All live fish will be released, once the basket of fish gets to the weigh tank you cannot change or substitute a fish. Tournament officials reserve the right to refuse entry to any individual or team.

11. NTC SPOTS – TEAM of the YEAR SCORING:

To qualify for the Cabela's NTC tournament spots each year both team members **MUST** be registered with The Walleye Federation prior to fishing the first tournament. NWS is awarded an allotment of spots each year and the first criteria that needs to be met to be considered for a spot is that each team member is registered with the Walleye Federation. After that it is based on Team of the Year standings. Each team at each event is awarded a "point value" based on how they finished in each respective tournament. For example, 1st place = 200 pts, 2nd place = 195 pts, 3rd place = 192 pts., 4th place = 190 pts, etc. If a team is entered into a tournament and do not weigh a fish they will get 25 points for that tournament. Any team disqualified for any reason will receive 0 points towards Team of the Year. At the end of the year every teams' "worst" (2) finishes will be thrown out and totals will be figured to determine final Team of the Year Standings. State Tournament WILL count towards TOY points, in order to fish state tournament you must fish (3) previous tournaments.

12. USE OF SUBS/STATE TOURNEY ENTRY/TEAM OF YEAR NOTES:

Qualify for State – "Team" must have one (1) member fish at least three (3) tournaments throughout the year from the possible five (5).

Team of the Year – All tournaments will count towards Team of the Year points with each teams worst two (2) score being dropped.

Use of Subs – “Team” is set the first entered tournament and you must fish with your teammate for a minimum of three (3) tournaments to qualify for Team of the Year points. Your team will be able to use (2) subs throughout the year.