

## WPA HARDWATER SERIES 2020 RULES

1. **NEW** \$90.00 entry fee. \$10.00 optional Lunker (biggest fish) fee per event.
2. **NEW** 10 fish per team.
3. Limit may consist of any combination of crappie, perch, or bluegill/sunfish.
4. Over 10 fish limit at weigh-in results in loss of biggest fish.
5. Lunker (biggest fish) can be a crappie, perch, or bluegill/sunfish.
6. Teams may consist of one or two individuals.
7. **NEW** Every team will be issued a team number at their first event fished.
8. **NEW** Points are awarded to the team per event (see below).
9. **NEW** One alternate per team, per season. Points are assigned to the team NOT individuals.
10. **NEW** Team members must be identified at the first event fished. One alternate member can be added at any time.
11. Onsite registration at tournament launch site will begin at 5:00 A.M. and end at safe light prior to the start of the each event, approximately 6:45am.
12. Launch order will be based off of random draw for the first 25 contestants. After first 25 registered contestants, starting position will be in order of registration.
13. All equipment including buckets, shanties, and bags will be inspected prior to the start of tournament.
14. All teams are required to carry at least one personal flotation device (PFD). A PFD is defined as a life jacket, throwable PFD, or a float suit. PFD's will be checked for prior to the start of the event. **Teams not carrying a PFD will not be permitted to compete.**
15. All contestants are required to carry ice picks/ice awls on their body **at all times**. Picks/awls will need to be shown to officials **prior to blast off. Contestants not carrying picks/awls will not be permitted to compete.**
16. Contestants may use/fish with no more than 2 rods per contestant at any time. Any combination of rods/tip-up may be used/fished, but cannot exceed 4 per team.
17. Pre-tournament rules meeting and prayer will be conducted prior to the start of each tournament.
18. Tournaments begin at safe light.
19. Fish being weighed must be counted and sorted prior to leaving the ice and at least 15 feet away from other teams.
20. All buckets containing fish will be collected immediately by tournament staff as anglers leave the ice. Buckets will be marked with a designated tag with the team's number.
21. Teams are authorized to use shanties; however, all shanties must be checked prior to the start of the tournament and marked with a designated tag or florescent ribbon.
22. Tournament boundaries will be determined prior to the start of each event and will be based off of current ice conditions. **Teams who leave the designated boundaries during tournament hours will be disqualified.**
23. Teams cannot step off the ice for any reason during tournament hours. In case of emergency, the tournament directors must be contacted immediately.
24. The use of alcohol and illegal narcotics (including marijuana) is not permitted during any event. This includes prior to, during, and following events. **Teams found to be under the influence will be immediately disqualified.**
25. **NEW** Team members must stay within 50 feet of each other from the time their team has passed inspection until their team's fish have been weighed in.
26. Teams are not permitted to fish closer than 15 feet from another team unless given permission by the other team.
27. All fish must be kept thawed in a bucket of water at all times. Frozen fish will not be weighed.
28. All fish caught must be caught during tournament hours.
29. For two day tournaments, fishing is not permitted between the conclusion of day one and the start of day two.
30. Contestants can drill as many holes as they like; however, any open hole may be fished by another competitor. Blocking of holes is not allowed. Leaving equipment next to an empty hole does not stop another fisherman from using that hole as long as they are 15 feet away from other contestants.
31. Weigh-in begins at 2:30pm (unless stated differently). All teams must check in with the director at specified location by 2:30pm. Teams weighing in after 2:30pm will be issued a ¼ lb. deduction of total weight per each minute late up to 15 minutes late. **After 15 minutes, any team not checked in will be disqualified.**
32. Tie breakers for weigh-ins are as follows:
  - 1. Big fish
  - 2. Total number of fish
  - 3. If there is still a tie, teams will compete in a fish off. First fish weighed wins.
33. Lunker must be marked prior to weigh-in for directors to easily identify.
34. If a team witnesses a violation of any rule, it is the obligation of that team to notify the tournament director immediately. If a violation is reported after the tournament, the team filing the grievance must do so in writing

- within 15 minutes from the start of the weigh-in. Photographic evidence and/or multiple witnesses must be provided to the directors as part of the notification or written grievance.
35. Any participant under the age 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18 and have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.
  36. Any violation of the rules will result in disqualification. Law enforcement will be contacted if the situation requires.
  37. **NEW** By his/her signature on the event entry form each participant agrees to submit for a third party administered polygraph at the discretion of the tournament director. If a team is believed to be in violation of any rules, participant(s) agrees to submit for a third-party administered polygraph examination and agrees to provide truthful and honest responses as to be determined by the third-party examiner. Refusing to take a polygraph examination for any reason will result in immediate disqualification. If the participant(s) fails the polygraph, they will also be responsible for the payment of any fees incurred by the polygraph administrator.
  38. Points will be issued in each event. The team with the most points at the conclusion of the season will be issued free entry into all tournaments the following season along with additional championship prizes (to be determined).

#### POINTS SYSTEM

1<sup>st</sup> place = 150 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place = 149 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place = 148 points

4<sup>th</sup> place = 147 points

Etc.....

39. If there is a points tie at the conclusion of the final event, a fish off will be held. Winner of the fish off will be determined by the first fish weighed-in.

***Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director and/or ruling board. Failure to comply with any rule may result in disqualification. The decision of the tournament director and/or ruling board shall be final in all matters.***

#### **Tournament Directors:**

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