

# 2010 Gator Classic Rules

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## General rules for the 2010 WBSA Gator Classic

### **1. Rules and rule changes**

The rules will remain unchanged unless otherwise notified by the tournament director. Interpretation of the rules will be to the discretion of the Tournament Director. The rules and the interpretations of them will be final and not open to protest.

### **2. Sportsmanship**

Entrants must conduct themselves in a true sportsman-like manner at all times. NO EXCEPTIONS. Courtesy and ethics of the highest standard are the norm, not the exception. Remember that you not only represent yourselves, but all tournament anglers and competitive fishing. Any rude or insulting type of behavior will be subject to disqualification or penalties enforced. Any person receiving a citation, for a violation in their boat, from any law enforcement agency on the day of the tournament will be disqualified for the tournament.

### **3. Rules meeting**

There will be a required rules meeting the night before the tournament. Everyone fishing must attend.

### **4. Severe weather**

In the event of severe weather the tournament hours may be suspended, extended or cut short. This tournament will not be rescheduled due to severe weather and refunds will be made accordingly. There may be boundary restrictions put in place due to extreme weather.

### **5. Safety**

Safety must be observed at all times. All contestants must wear Coast Guard approved PFDs while the boat is moving above trolling speed. Each contestant is to follow all Coast Guard regulations. No Alcoholic beverages or illegal substances may be consumed or in possession by teams during fishing hours or at the weigh in afterwards.

### **6. Boats and equipment**

All boat compartments and wells will be inspected prior to the start of that day of fishing. All boats must conform to the appropriate state, and USCG standards. Your boat must have all USCG safety equipment on board including a VHF radio. All boats must be 17' or more in length and have a USCG or BMA plate attached by the boat manufacturer and the horsepower rating will not be exceeded by any means. Bait and tackle may not be passed between boats after the tournament has started. Only registered contestants are allowed to be on the boat during tournament hours. All boats must have liability insurance.

### **7. Marine radios and cell phones**

You must also have a working VHF marine band radio. The official tournament channel will be channel 80. Monitoring of any channel other than the official tournament channel or Channel 16 is not allowed. Any type of transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during the tournament.

### **8. Fishing**

Water open to fish will be the Ohio waters of Lake Erie. Competitors must not come in contact with other boats during tournament fishing hours and until your fish have been weighed or your boat board turned in to tournament officials. Contact means physical touching or passing of equipment. The only exception to this rule is in an emergency situation. Talking between boats while in weigh in line is allowed. If a competitors boat breaks down another competitor MAY bring their fish to the weigh in and assist with a tow. Any disabled boat must notify the tournament director by radio or phone. Fish must not be combined between teams. While fishing there may only be 4 rods in use and in rod holders or vertical storage. All extra rods must be laying down and out of sight.

### **9. Dead fish**

There is **no** dead fish penalty. Fish do not need to be kept in a live well. Care should be taken that fish are put on ice immediately or otherwise cared for so as not to appear old if a live well is not used. Live wells should be functioning so as not to cause undue degradation of fish. Improperly cared for fish may be taken from the weigh basket and not weighed at the judgment of tournament officials. Fish should be checked so no ice, leaves or other foreign objects are in the fish during weigh in.

### **10. Weigh in**

Teams must be past the official check in site before announced time to weigh fish. Any team arriving late will not be allowed to weigh. Check in site will be announced at the rules meeting. Winners will be determined by the weight of their 5 largest fish. Big fish winner will be determined by the weight of single largest walleye. Only 1 fish per team is eligible for big fish each day. Teams must weigh their fish in as soon as possible after arriving past the check in point. Any delay in doing so will result in a half weight penalty being assessed for the total weight and big fish weight. Leaders and contenders on the second day may be asked to pull aside at the tourney directors discretion.

### **11. Protest**

The tournament director or any contestant has the right to protest another team or contestant. The protest must be made to the tournament director before prize distribution begins and accompanied by a \$250.00 fee. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If it is not, no refund will be given. The tournament director reserves the right to do random, onsite polygraph exams of any participating team in order to make sure the integrity of the event is being upheld.

## **12. Spirit of the rule**

All rules have "loop holes". It is the intention of the Tournament Director to provide a sportsman like tournament. All questions or problems are to be referred to the Tournament Director. He has sole jurisdiction in determining the application of the rules.

## **13. Participation and eligibility**

The field will be limited to 85 boats and two man teams with 40 boats being considered an acceptable field to payout the \$10000 first place prize. All participants must be 18 or older and be members of WBSA. Entries will be taken from Jan 4th until April 30, 2010. Boat numbers will be assigned by order of entry. The WBSA Tournament Director has right of entry refusal or expulsion from the tournament for any reason.

## **14. Refunds**

Refunds will be issued if the tournament has to be cancelled due to weather. Participants must be present at check in on both scheduled days to receive refund. For events that are not delayed for weather there will be no refunds of entries or deposits.

## **15. Payback**

Payback will be 100% of total entry fees in the Pro division, and will pay back to 15% of the field. Amateur Division will pay back 50% up to \$2000 total (1000 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 600 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 400 for 3<sup>rd</sup>) based on a 40 boat field. Plaques will be given to the top four in each division. Big fish pot is \$100 in the pro division and \$25 in the Amateur division and will pay back 100% and is optional.

## **16. Entries**

Entries will be accepted beginning January 4<sup>th</sup> for both divisions and boat numbers will be assigned to Pros in the order of entry received and upon pairing with an Amateur angler. Participants signing up with a counter part from the other division will receive priority entry. Amateur entries are \$100 (plus \$5 CC fee) and will be taken beginning on January 4<sup>th</sup> by check, cash or credit card. Early Amateur sign up is encouraged as counterpart assignments are made based on order of entry. Entry fees for the Pro division are \$500. Sign up options for the Pro division are as follow:

- Deposit Option: Must use a credit card (CC). Sign up Jan 4<sup>th</sup> through Jan 31<sup>st</sup> for just \$150 deposit (plus \$5 CC fee). The balance due is manual and up to the angler. A reminder will be sent about a week before due on April 24th. Savings of \$15 CC fee, delays payment of balance until 1 week prior to the tournament and gives priority for boat numbers.
- Pay in Full option: Can pay by check, cash or CC. Sign up Jan 4<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> and pay the entire \$500 entry fee. Entry fee will increase to \$550 from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. From April 16<sup>th</sup> until the event the entry fee will be \$650. A \$20 CC fee will apply to above prices if using a credit card.

Alternates in either division may be taken to ensure an equal amount of anglers in both divisions.

## **17. Waiver and hold harmless**

All contestants in signing an entry form agree to hold harmless any and all promoters, tournament directors, agents, agencies, and organizations assisting the WBSA and LEWT tournament operation. Furthermore, all contestants agree to waive all responsibility for death, injuries, damage, liability, theft, fire or loss of any kind to entrants. I have read, understand and agree to abide by the above rules, and by signing the entry form is in fact signing a waiver form.

Entries must be signed in order to participate.