

2010 LEWT Rules

General rules for the 2010 Lake Erie Walleye Trail

1. Rules and rule changes

These rules will remain unchanged unless otherwise notified during the rules meeting. Interpretation of the rules will be to the discretion of the Tournament Director (TD). 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 team receiving a citation, for a violation in their boat, from any law enforcement agency on the day of the tournament will be disqualified for that tournament.

3. Severe weather

In the event of severe weather the tournament hours may be suspended, extended, cut short or boundaries put in place. A tournament may be rescheduled or canceled at the discretion of the tournament director. All Saturday tournaments will have a blow day of the following Sunday unless otherwise noted (2010 Fenwick).

4. 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.

5. 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 will 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 or tournament officials are allowed to be on the boat during tournament hours. All boats must have liability insurance.

6. Marine radios and cell phones

You must also have a working VHF marine band radio. The official tournament channel will be channel 80. You may monitor any channel while fishing but cannot transmit by radio, cell phone* or any other electronic equipment. Any type of transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during the tournament.

**Cell phone use parameters:* Cell phones are for emergency use only, be it business, safety or family related. When an emergency call is received by any tournament angler, that angler must immediately call the tournament director notifying him of that call. The number for the TD is located on the back of all boat cards. If you know you may receive a call during tourney hours let the TD know ahead of time.

7. 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.

Standing rod change for 2010: Only 4 rods may be up right and visible while fishing. Putting rods in holders while running to another spot is acceptable.

8. 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

9. Weigh in

Teams must be past the official check in site before the end of tournament hours to weigh fish. Any team arriving late will not be allowed to weigh. Check in site will be announced at each tournament. 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. 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.

10. 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 \$200.00 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 or equipment inspections including cell phones of any participating team in order to make sure the integrity of the event is being upheld.

11. 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.

12. Participation and eligibility

Fields will be limited to 50 boats and two man teams with 45 boats being considered a full field for payouts. All participants must be 18 or older and be members of the WBSA. Exceptions to the age limit will be made on a case by case basis and waivers will have to be signed by both parents or legal guardians if younger participants are accepted. The WBSA, LEWT or Tournament Director has right of entry refusal or expulsion from the tournament for any reason.

13. Refunds

Refunds will be issued if the tournament has to be postponed due to weather and the team is unable to fish on the make up date. Those refunds will be mailed after the decision to cancel that days event has been made, one team member must be present to be eligible for the refund. For events that are not delayed for weather there will be no refunds for non early bird teams. At the discretion of the director, early bird teams may be eligible for one refund per year if a life threatening emergency situation or death in the family arises and causes the early bird team to miss a tournament. If other events are missed there will be no additional refunds given to early bird teams. Blow date refunds will have a \$20 writing fee withheld.

14. Payback

Payback will be at least 80% of total entry fees, and will pay back to 20% of a full field of 45 teams. Plaques will be given to the top three teams. The optional big fish pot is \$20 per team and will pay back 100%. Plaques will also be awarded for the big fish winner.

15. Entry Fees

Entry fees are \$150 per team per event. Early bird entries will be taken from January 4th until January 31st, 2010 and is for teams signing up to fish all 4 events. Early bird teams that pay by credit card can do installment billing by paying for the first event in full and then they will be automatically billed 30 days prior to the remainder of the events. Boat numbers for these teams will stay the same for the season and will be assigned based on finishing position in the 2009 team of the year points for teams that fished at least 3 events. The balance of the boat numbers will be assigned by order of entry. Starting February 1st, single tournament entries will be accepted. Entries will be accepted until the start of the tournament or until the field is full. All entries received after 8 PM on the Sunday prior to the event will have a \$50 late fee. Credit card users will be charged a \$5 per event user fee.

16. Points

Points will be awarded based on place of finish. For the first 3 events 200 points will be awarded to the team that finishes first and will drop by two point increments for each place after first. Teams not weighing a fish will receive 2 points less than the last team weighing a fish. The last event of the year will be considered the Championship and that event will be worth 300 points for first and will drop by 3 point increments with teams not weighing a fish receiving 3 points less than the last team weighing a fish. Points champion will be based on points earned in each teams best 2 out of first 3 events and the Championship.

17. Substitutes

Substitutes may be used but they must not be a member of another team and one of the original team members must be present.

18. 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.