

Southern Alberta Walleye Trail (SAWT) Tournament Guidelines & Rules **2026**

1. WARNING

- Any individual found violating the rules of this tournament may be **disqualified from the current event and all future SAWT tournaments.**
 - At the discretion of the SAWT Tournament Committee, offenders may also be **charged with fraud under the Criminal Code of Canada.**
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2. ELIGIBILITY

- All participants **18 years of age or older** are eligible to compete.
 - Anglers **18 years of age or under** must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone over the age of 18. (with written permission of a parent or guardian)
 - All participants must be members of the SAWT and their membership paid in full prior to partaking in the event.
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3. WAIVER OF LIABILITY

- Tournament promoters, sponsors, assisting organizations, and their agents assume **no responsibility** for death, injury, damage, theft, fire, liability, or loss.
 - By signing the entry form, each participant acknowledges and accepts this waiver.
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4. REQUIREMENTS

All contestants must comply with the following:

- Possess a **valid Alberta fishing license.**
 - Carry a **U.S. Coast Guard or Transport Canada-approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).** Wearing a PFD at all times is strongly encouraged.
 - Observe all **Canadian boating safety regulations.**
 - Boats must meet **U.S. Coast Guard or Canadian safety standards.**
 - Boats must carry **valid provincial or state registration.**
 - Electric trolling motors are permitted.
 - Electronic equipment such as depth finders, thermometers, oxygen meters, and similar devices are permitted.
 - All contestants must strictly comply with **all Alberta Irrigation District Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program rules**, including inspections, decontamination, permits, and access restrictions.
 - Failure to comply with AIS requirements may result in **immediate disqualification.**
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5. TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES

- Provincial **no-fishing zones** will be enforced.

- Additional SAWT boundaries may be implemented on a **lake-by-lake basis**. These Boundaries will be geofenced within the E Tournament Fishing APP. Anglers may not cross, or angle into out of bounds your boat, your lure, your line must all be within the eligible water boundary.
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6. PROTESTS

- Any contestant may file a protest against another contestant.
 - Protest forms are available from the Tournament Directors.
 - Protests must be submitted **within one (1) hour** of the close of the fishing day.
 - A **\$150 protest fee** must accompany all protests.
 - The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
 - All parties involved in a protest must remain **on call for three (3) hours** following the end of the fishing day.
 - **All protest decisions will be by the Tournament Directors and the decision is final. If available, photo or video evidence from the protestor will be considered.**
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7. PRIZES

- Prizes are awarded based on **total combined weight** from both tournament days.
 - All prizes are awarded on a **team basis**.
 - In the event of a tie, the team with the **greater weight on the first day** will be declared the winner, subject to official verification.
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8. FISH SUBMISSION & CPRV FORMAT

- All SAWT events use a **Catch, Photo, Release Video (CPRV)** format unless otherwise specified.
- Holding fish on stringers, baskets, coolers, live wells, or portable containers during tournament hours is **strictly prohibited**.
- Possession of any fish species (excluding **minnow-type bait**) is prohibited.
- All fish must be **immediately released** after digital documentation.
- **eTournament Fishing App**
- Use of the **eTournament Fishing app** is mandatory.
- At least one team member must have the app installed; both are strongly encouraged.
- Teams must check in prior to fishing while cellular or Wi-Fi service is available.
- A maximum of **20 fish per team, per day** may be entered.
- Only the **five (5) largest fish per day** will count toward total weight.
- **Measurement Photo Requirements:**
 - Immediately after catching a fish to be submitted, the participant *must* take the measurement photo.
 - The measurement photo *must* be taken from directly overhead ("straight down perspective") with no angle. Avoid casting shadows on the fish.

- o The measurement photo *must* clearly show the entire fish and be in focus. Providing a clear photo for accurate verification is the participant's sole responsibility.
 - o The measurement photo *must* clearly show the fish's top or bottom jaw touching the front of the bump board as well as the tail (pinched or unpinched) on the measuring board for accurate length measurement. If the tail touches or crosses a graduation line, rounding up to the nearest cm is permitted.
 - **Release video Requirements**
 - o The release video will be started while the fish is on the bump board, the fish will then be moved to the water and respectfully released and shown swimming away.
 - o Video will not exceed 1 min in length.
 - o The intent of the release video is to ensure the fish was not retained but placed back immediately after measurements were taken, does not show signs of stress, and to ensure the fish swims off on its own strength.
 - The minimum length for fish submission is 40cm. Fish not reaching the 40cm mark do not meet the minimum length requirement and cannot be submitted.
 - At the discretion of the Tournament director reviewing the photos and release videos. If one or more of your submissions do not meet the minimum criteria outlined in these rules, your fish entry will be declined. In the event this happens, your next largest fish submission from the day will be judged and entered.
 - At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director any participant can be disqualified if it is shown that a participant is not displaying proper handling techniques towards the fish or the due care they deserve.
 - At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director two release videos in the same day that display stressed, or dead fish that were deemed non releaseable will result in a zero weight for that day.
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9. FISHING HOURS & START

- Fishing hours are **7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, Saturday and Sunday.
- Each team is allowed **eight (8) hours** of fishing time per day.
- The eTournament app opens at **7:00 a.m.** and closes at **3:00 p.m.**.
- Boats will depart using a **staggered start**, reversing order on Day Two.
- Multiple flights will be used only if **more than 40 boats** are registered and approved at the rules meeting.
- All boats must be **inspected prior to launching**.
- You may fish and enter catches right until 3 p.m. each day at your fishing location. The app will no longer accept photos or video releases after that time. If the app closes at 3pm before your fish entry is submitted, that fish will not count. No exceptions.
- After fishing time closes, **DO NOT RUSH** and pack away your things and make your way directly back to the takeoff point safely. At 3:30 pm if you are not back at the take off point you are considered late, and missing

and we will initiate trying to contact you and or searching for you at that point. If you are just late you will receive a no weight for that day.

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION & SECURITY

- Boats will be assigned a **boat number** at the rules meeting.
 - Boats may be inspected **before, after and during** the tournament.
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11. FISHING RULES

- **Eligible species: Walleye**
 - Fish must be caught **by hook and line in a normal manner.**
 - Each angler may fish **one line at a time.**
 - Spare rods and equipment may be carried in the boat.
 - bait and artificial lures are permitted. All bait needs to meet the Alberta Sportfishing regulations.
 - **Electronic or electric lures are prohibited.**
 - **NO LIVE MINNOWS ALLOWED.**
 - Sportsmanlike conduct is required at all times.
 - Boats may not touch other boats.
 - Any violation of **Alberta angling regulations** results in disqualification.
 - No fishing is permitted **after 2:00 p.m.** on the day prior to the tournament.
 - **Minimum eligible length: 40 cm.**
 - **Contestants may only leave the boat under emergency circumstances (severe weather or health emergency) anglers may not leave the boat to land fish or untangle any fishing equipment. If Severe weather occurs SAWT executive or tournament marshals will direct teams to take shelter where safe, and or return to the launch, ending the day of fishing.**
 - Official SAWT measuring boards are mandatory and the only boards permitted. Each team will receive a board and boat number on the morning of Day 1. Boards *must* be returned to SAWT staff at the end of each day. Failure to return a board will incur a \$150 replacement fee.
 - All participants must adhere to safe boating practices, applicable laws, and the rules of the governing body of water. Alcohol, marijuana products, and illegal drugs are prohibited in tournament boats and vehicles during fishing hours.
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12. OTHER PRIZES

- Contingency prizes may be offered by sponsors or contributors.
 - Additional rules may apply as specified by the prize sponsor.
 - Only **live, releasable fish** qualify for Big Fish awards.
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13. MISCELLANEOUS

- If one team member withdraws prior to or during the tournament, a replacement may be made with **written notice** to the committee and at their discretion.
 - If an entire team withdraws, the vacancy will be filled by the tournament committee.
 - Entry fees will be refunded only if the vacant spot is filled.
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14. SPIRIT OF THE RULE

- All rules are governed by the **spirit of fair play and sportsmanship**.
- The decisions of the SAWT Tournament Committee are **final**