

2020 GOTL WALLEYE OPEN - GOTL WALLEYE OPEN SPRING BASH WILD WINGS Rules & Procedures.
THIS IS A HAIR JIG ONLY TOURNAMENT! DRIFTING ONLY NO ANCHORING IS PERMITTED!!!!
NO TROLLING OR CASTING ANY OTHER LURES OF ANY KIND PERMITTED.

FLIGHT TIME 4/10-4/11 - 7:00AM - 3:00PM

Entry Fees

Entry fee of \$30 per person for Big Fish Friday April 10, 2020 (All participants on a boat must be registered to be eligible). Entry fee for main event Saturday April 11, 2020 of \$300 per boat for the GOTL Walleye Open. Saturday April 11, 2020 optional \$100 per boat for the Big Box Calcutta (total weight for 5 Walleye). All entry fees must be paid by the published due dates. Boat numbers will be assigned in the order entries are received.

Big Fish Friday Times/Rules 4/10/2020

Rods in water no earlier than 7:00 am & must cease fishing by 3:00 pm Friday. Must be in line at weigh scale no later than 4:00 pm or disqualification. ALL ANGLERS ARE PERMITTED TO JIG 2 RODS PER PERSON. THIS IS HAIR JIG ONLY TOURNAMENT NO EXCEPTIONS!!! 1 LURE PER ROD W/ 1 STINGER HOOK PER LURE PERMITTED. LIVE BAIT IS PERMITTED. NO BOTTOM BOUNCERS, DRAGGERS, OR DEAD STICKS ALLOWED. NO BOAT INSPECTION NEEDED FOR BIG FISH FRIDAY. Big Fish Friday is determined by 1 Walleye by weight.

If any team is participating in Saturday's main event they must have one team member present for the captains meeting Friday at 5:00 pm at Wild Wings Marina to go over rules & morning procedure. **NO TEAMS ARE PERMITTED TO FISH AFTER 6:00 PM FRIDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE MAIN EVENT.**

Sign In & Boat Inspection – 5:00 am to 6:30 am (Saturdays Main Event.)

All teams are required to be signed in and ready for inspection by 6:30 am. Failure to be signed in by 6:30 am will result in disqualification. All trailered boats must report to weigh in area to be inspected. All Dock holders must report to registration to check in and be accompanied by a tournament official to inspect your boat.

Send Off – Wave time and number will be determined by the number of entries. (Saturdays Main Event.)

Wave Time– 7:00 am as determined by GPS

After launching, teams are to assemble in order according to their boat number near the send-off boat idling east along the shoreline which will be flying the American Flag. Hold up your boat board for others to see. The send-off boat will call out the boat numbers via radio. When your number is called out proceed past the send-off boat on your starboard side at idle speed and continue to follow all boating regulations, i.e. no wake, speed limits etc. If you jump the order you must return to the end of the line. Teams missing from or late for the send-off will be disqualified.

MAIN EVENT Fishing up to 8 anglers 8 rods max. This is a hair jig ONLY tournament!!!!

All state and local regulations must be followed. Any violation of a state or local regulation will result in disqualification. Contestants are limited to ONE HAIR JIG PER ROD W/ A STINGER HOOK – this means No casting harnesses . No casting crank baits. No bottom bouncers, draggers or dead sticks. No snagging of any kind permitted, all snagged fish must be released. One stinger hook per lure is permitted (includes treble hook). NO Bow Mount, Electric, or Gas Trolling motors are prohibited to move or adjust drift speed with any rod or lure in the water at any time. If moving in any direction or adjusting drift angle, ALL Rod's must be stowed. There is a 15" minimum size limit. The official ruler will be "The Judge". Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and tail pinched. Presenting a fish under 15" for weigh-in will result in disqualification. Waters open to fishing will be all of the Ohio waters of Lake Erie with East and West boundaries. No boats shall past the West line of W83* 15.400' (Toledo Water Intake), East Line W82* 50.000' (between mouse island and mouse island reef). Competitors must not go ashore or come in contact with any other boats during tournament fishing hours and until your fish have been weighed or your boat board turned to tournament officials. Contact means physical touching or passing of equipment. The use of any cell phone apps are permitted. If a competitor's boat breaks down another competitor, other boater or towing service can assist with a tow. Any disabled boat must notify the listed tournament director (TD) by radio or phone. Fish must not be combined between teams. In the event of a breakdown all time check procedures will still apply. Any Teams missing Boat #'s at weigh in will be DISQUALIFIED!!!

Check In – Saturday's Main Event

Wave 1 Time Check –Between 2:00 & 3:00 pm as determined by GPS

The time check official will be in place at 1:45 pm. Idle past the time check official flying a checkered flag on East Side of Marina Entrance and show them your boat number. They will confirm that you are checked in by radio or hand signal. All boats must be off plane and past the time check official by 3:00 pm. Teams arriving at the time check location early must wait for the time check official to arrive. Any boat entering Marina before 2pm will result in disqualification. If you are not checked in by the time check official you cannot weigh in. Any team arriving late will not be allowed to weigh in. All Teams Must Drop off at least 1 team member w/ your 5 fish in the provided fish bag, along with boat board. Drop Off Location will be at the pump out dock in front of tournament registration.

Weigh In & Scoring

The weigh in start time is 3:00 pm. Early weigh in is not available. **Main Event Winners are determined by the weight of their 5 largest Walleye. You will weigh your Big fish first & then you're remaining fish to determine the total weight. The Big Fish Bonus winner will be determined by the weight of the single largest walleye. Only 1 fish per team is eligible for big fish.** Teams must weigh in as soon as possible starting at 3:00 pm. All Teams must be in line No Later than 4:00 pm or they will be disqualified. Any unnecessary delay will result in a 1 pound penalty being assessed for the total weight and big fish weight.

Fish

Any fish mauled, mashed, frozen, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gills, soft flesh or other signs of decomposition (as per a tournament official) will result in disqualification.

Ties

In the event of a tie, the payout for the tied position and the following position will be combined and split between the tied anglers. Example: Two teams are tied for 3rd place. The 3rd and 4th place payouts are combined and split between these two teams. The next highest weight will be in 5th place etc. In the event of a tie for big fish the payout will be split between the anglers. In the event of a tie for a contingency bonus the payout will be split between the eligible contingency recipients.

Participation and Eligibility

60(8-angler max 8 rod max) boats are being considered a full field for payouts with an allowance for overbooking. Waivers will have to be signed by a parent or legal guardian for kids under 18. Tournament Director has right of entry refusal or expulsion from the tournament for any reason.

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.

Refunds

There will be **no refunds** for events that are canceled, blow days or disqualification for any reason.

For events that are not canceled for weather there will be no refunds. There are no refunds if you are disqualified for any reason. Should Friday & Saturday be canceled and the weekend is considered a total weather loss, deemed un-fishable, the payouts will be organized and in the following manner.

- **Big Fish Friday**-Places 5th through 1st will be done by a lottery draw. The first 5 individual chips drawn will be the winners. They will be drawn from 5th place to 1st place. Registered individuals only. Payouts will be divided out equally between the 5 pulled names.
- **Saturday Tournament Main Event**-Places 10th through 1st will be done by a lottery draw. The first 10 team chips drawn will be the winners. They will be drawn from 10th place to 1st place. Registered teams only. Payouts will be divided out equally amongst each team drawn.
- **Calcutta**- Places 3rd through 1st will be done by a lottery draw. The first 3 team chips drawn will be the winners. They will be drawn from 3rd place to 1st place. Registered teams only. Payouts will be divided equally amongst the 3 drawn teams. If Required all drawings will be held at 12pm noon Saturday April 11, 2020.

Sportsmanship

Entrants must conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike manner at all times. NO EXCEPTIONS. 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.

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. 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. All boats must have liability insurance.

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. Alcoholic beverages are permitted at the captains discretion. NO illegal substances may be consumed or in possession by teams during fishing hours or in violation of state and local law.

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 canceled at the discretion of the tournament director. Saturday tournaments will NOT Have a Blow day. All decisions regarding severe weather are at the discretion of the Tournament Director(s). In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, severe weather or any unsafe condition during an event, participants should remove themselves from the competition and seek safety or shelter until it is safe to continue fishing. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency. In the event of a canceled Tournament or Big Fish Friday we will not reschedule or refund but will follow the lottery guide lines.

Marine Radios and Cell Phones

For Lake Erie events it is recommended that you have a VHF marine band radio. This is an open communication tournament.

Protest

The tournament director(s) 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 completed and signed written protest form. The tournament director reserves the right to do random, on-site polygraph exams, questioning of participants, equipment inspections including cell phones, and may demand cell phone records of any participating team in order to make sure the integrity of the event is being upheld.

Spirit of the Rule

All rules have "loop holes". It is the intention of the Tournament Director(s) to provide a sportsman like tournament. All questions or problems are to be referred to the Tournament Director (s). They have sole jurisdiction in determining the application of the rules. Rules and Rule Changes These rules will remain unchanged unless otherwise duly notified. Interpretation of the rules will be to the discretion of the Tournament Director(s). The rules and the interpretations of them will be final and not open to protest.

Polygraph

All participants signing the waiver are subject to a polygraph test whether boat captain or not. Any participant refusing a polygraph test will be disqualified from individual or team winnings of any kind. If Participants polygraph results are inconclusive for any reason deemed by polygraph examiner the tournament director will pick a random team member to re-test. If any re-test is needed re-testing team will be liable for 100% of the polygraph testing fee, No Exceptions.

Release Waiver

In addition to signing the 2020 waiver, I also declare I am fully aware of the event rules and regulations and enforceable penalties, should they not be followed. In addition to the signing the 2020 waiver, I also declare that I and all participating members of my team receiving payment, prizes and/or income are responsible for any/all required state and federal taxes (if required). GOTL Walleye Open officials/personal are not accountable for any taxes of any kind due from recipients groups. In addition by signing this 2020 waiver, we released (give permission that any/all video/pictures collected by professional and amateur filming/ photography groups can be utilized by the GOTL Walleye Open LLC as seen fit). Waiver must be in tournament officials possession before any participant/team departs for competition.