

2020 GOTL WALLEYE OPEN - GOTL WALLEYE OPEN GENEVA, OHIO Rules & Procedures.

FLIGHT TIME #1 - 7:00AM - 3:00PM

Entry Fees

Entry fee for main event Saturday September 19, 2020 of \$300 per boat for the GOTL Walleye Open Geneva, Ohio. Saturday September 19, 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.

Captains Meeting

If any team is participating in Saturdays main event they must have one team member present for the captains meeting Friday September 18, 2020 at 6:00pm this will be a FB Live Stream 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.

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

Wave Time #1– 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 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 or megaphone. When your number is called out proceed past the send-off boat 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. Note: Tournament officials performing essential tournament duties that are required to return prior to the 3:00 pm time check will be sent off at 6:45 am.

Fishing up to 8 anglers 9 rods max.

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 LURE PER ROD – this means no “slider” or “3-way” tandem / triple lures or umbrella rigs. No snagging of any kind permitted, all snagged fish must be released. One stinger hook per lure is permitted (includes treble hook). On lakes without a minimum size limit a 15” minimum will be imposed. 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. For Lake Erie events, waters open to fishing will be the Ohio waters of Lake Erie. Competitors must not go ashore or 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 use of any cell phone apps is prohibited. The only exception to this rule is in an emergency situation. 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.

Check In – Check in times will be determined by the number of entries. (Saturdays Main Event.)

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

The time check official will be in place at 2:15 pm. Idle past the time check official 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. 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. Check in site will be announced at each tournament & the time check official will be flying a checkered flag.

Weigh In & Scoring

The weigh in start time is 3:30 pm. Early weigh in is not available. **Main Event Winners are is 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 3:30 pm. Any unnecessary delay in doing so will result in a half weight 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

50 (8-angler max 9 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 are no refunds for weather, disqualification or cancellations. In the event that the tournament is called due to weather we will have a lottery draw. There is NO BLOW DAY. Should Saturday be considered a total weather loss, deemed un-fishable, the payouts will be organized and in the following manner.

- **Saturday Tournament Main Event**-Places 5th through 1st will be done by a lottery draw. The first 5 team chips drawn will be the winners. They will be drawn from 5th place to 1st place. Registered teams only.
- **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.
(If required all drawings will be done Saturday September 19, 2020 at DB Marine 4762 N. Broadway Geneva-on-the-lake, OH 44041).

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. No Alcoholic beverages or 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 have a blow day of the following day being Sunday. 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 50% 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.