

Rules and Regulations

It is the responsibility of each contestant to understand and abide by all tournament rules. Please note any updated rules are in **BOLD** lettering.

1. Tournament hours will be from **12:01 am on June 13, 2026, to 4:00 pm on Sunday June 21, 2026.**
2. The official fishing Derby boundary waters are all US waters of Lake Erie and US portion of the Upper Niagara River, along with all of their tributaries to the first impossible barrier.
3. Only registered contestants of the Derby may be on the boat while fishing the Derby.
4. Every contestant must have a valid fishing license and follow all the applicable laws. Including but not limited to boat regulations and registration.
5. All walleye entered must be caught by hook, line, rod and reel on legal angling tackle.
6. Each contestant must reel in his or her own fish from start to finish. There is no passing of the rod allowed once the first turn of the reel takes place.
7. To weigh a walleye it must be a minimum length of 26" (23" for youth).
8. Only the fish being weighed in can be brought to the weigh station.
9. If fish is presented in any type of container then only bagged or blocked ice is permitted in the container. No loose ice or water baths allowed.
10. Anything that is not a "natural" part of the fish does not get weighed in with the fish with the exception of transmitters or government issued tag(s).
11. Any fish found being altered in any manner to increase the fish's weight is unacceptable and will result in disqualification.
12. In the event of a tie (by weight), the longest fish prevails. If the tying fish are the same weight and length then the earliest date and time will determine the winner.
13. No fish will be weighed in until the entrant completes their portion of the weigh slip. Failure to complete the form in its entirety will be grounds for disqualification of the fish. Failure to indicate equipment and/or Calcuttas will result in the entrant unable to claim the prize. Weigh slip is not valid without contestant signature.
14. All fish entered will be subjected to following inspection – the fish will be felt for any foreign objects, probed, scanned with metal detector, and then gill plate cut or punched.
15. Any fish in question by the weigh station attendants will be turned over to the Derby Committee. The weigh station attendant will confiscate the fish and the fish will be inspected by Derby officials within 4 hours.
16. No banking of the fish. All fish must be weighed in before the next day's closing time of the weigh station.
17. Any boat and fishing equipment including graphs used during the Derby can be subject to an inspection by the Derby Committee.
18. All entrants and weigh station attendants are subject to polygraph.
19. All contestants must make themselves available for polygraph if they are chosen. If they refuse the polygraph, it is grounds for automatic disqualification.
20. If the results of the polygraph indicates deception or is inconclusive, the Derby Committee will make the determination of disqualification of the fish and/or entrant.
21. There will be no refund of Derby Fees and/or Calcuttas for any reason.
22. Any abuse, verbal or otherwise, directed towards the Derby Committee members, its volunteers or supporting staff will result in immediate disqualification. NO Exceptions.
23. Any/All, New York State and Federal income taxes forthcoming of payouts and prizes received from Southtowns Walleye Association, Inc. are the sole responsibility of the entrant.
24. All payouts are based on a fully registered field of 865 entrants.
25. No entrant can win more than one (1) cash prize in the main Derby.
26. The Derby Committee shall be the sole interpreter of the rules and their decision shall be final and not subject to appeal and or legal action.
27. Violation of these rules and regulations may lead to suspension from the club and possible legal actions.