

**PERMIT TO CONDUCT AN  
OPEN WATER FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Name of tournament Safelite Walleye Classic		Permit number <b>26-214-T05</b>
Name of permittee Red Lowen		Phone number (include area code) 218-966-3866
Address (number and street, RFD, box no., city, state, zip code) 26109 Hidden Road Akeley MN 56433		
Email address of permittee Red.lowen@safelite.com	Name of sponsor (organization, firm or individual) The CAG Foundation	

Permission is hereby granted to the individual and/or organization named above to conduct a fishing tournament under the provisions of this permit, pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes and Rules.

The permittee shall submit a report on form provided to the Regional Fisheries Manager identified below within 30 days after completion of the tournament.

**TOURNAMENT DETAILS**

Name of water(s) Vermilion	Acres 40,557	County St Louis	Division of Waters I.D. number 69037800
<b>Tournament type / format</b>			
1. Immediate release (aka <i>catch-photo-release; this means no central weigh-in of fish</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	4. Youth (<18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2. Catch and release with weigh-in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	5. Bowfishing or spearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
3. Catch and keep	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. Mandatory walleye kill	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Tournament species</b> walleye			
Estimated prize value \$50,000	Individual entry fee \$250	Maximum number of individuals 250	Maximum number of boats 125
<b>Permit type / fees (check one)</b>		Off-site weigh-in:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth: \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 or less boats: \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 or less boats: \$280	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice: \$135	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 50 boats: \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> > 50 boats: \$560	
Beginning date 5/16/2026	Terminating date 5/16/2026	Daily fishing hours 7 am – 3:30 pm	
Boat access to be used / access description Fortune Bay Resort and Casino Marina			
Weigh-in station(s) Fortune Bay Resort and Casino Marina	Off-site weigh-in:		
Additional stipulations/conditions: <b>(see reverse side of permit for conditions that apply)</b>			

Regional Fisheries Manager's signature 		Date approved 10/6/25
David L. Weitzel		

DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES:

St. Paul – Central Office  
Area Fisheries Supervisor  
Regional Fisheries Manager  
Area Parks and Trails Supervisor  
Area Conservation Officer

**REGIONAL OFFICE ADDRESS**

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## Standard Permit Language

### CONDITIONS FOR PERMIT NO. (26-214-T05)

#### Standard Conditions for Open Water Fishing Tournaments

- 1. Tournament Rules and Cancellations** - Tournament rules are permit conditions; changes following permit issuance nullify this permit unless approved by the Regional Fisheries Manager. The Regional Fisheries Manager must be informed of any tournament cancellations at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled event.
- 2. County Special Event Permits** - Some counties require a special event permit from the county sheriff. It is the permittee's responsibility to obtain this permit from the county sheriff, if required. Failure to obtain required permits from local authorities nullifies this permit (M.S. 86B.121).
- 3. Local Regulations** - Failure on the part of the permittee to comply with township, city, or county regulations, ordinances, and/or permit requirements nullifies this permit.
- 4. Wild Rice Regulations** - Wild rice is afforded protection under Minnesota Statute 84.091. It is illegal to damage or destroy beds of wild rice. Boating through beds of wild rice can cause damage that may result in fines up to \$700 and future denial of tournament permit applications.
- 5. Fishing Regulations** – Minnesota state fishing regulations, including experimental or special regulations, supersede tournament rules. Unless otherwise authorized, tournament anglers must comply, the same as all other anglers. The Tournament sponsor must explain the specifics of applicable regulations to participants prior to the start of tournament competition.
- 6. Use of Public Accesses** - The tournament organizer is responsible for gaining approval to use access sites, no matter the ownership. At all public accesses, boat ramps and parking places will not be usurped for the exclusive use of tournament sponsors and participants unless authorized by the permit (M.R. 6212.2700, Subp. 1). Using state owned access sites managed by DNR's Parks and Trails Division requires a Special Use Permit and can be obtained by contacting DNR Parks and Trails. **No more than 50% of available parking spaces at public water accesses may be used by tournament participants unless authorized by the Special Use Permit.** Please make the necessary arrangements to plan for any additional parking spaces you may need to ensure compliance with this requirement and the success of your tournament.
- 7. Trash Removal** - All trash, rubbish, debris, litter, and dead fish resulting from the tournament will be removed from the ice, water, and/or public property immediately upon the tournament's termination (M.R. 6212.2700, Subp. 2).
- 8. Livewells** – Livewells must have either functioning flow-through systems or functioning aerators and must be capable of sustaining the anticipated number and size of fish in good condition.
- 9. Culling** - Once a limit of fish has been reduced to possession, no culling or live well sorting is permitted. Fish released by individual anglers must be capable of holding themselves upright in the water and have a high probability of survival. Under no circumstances will a fish of questionable status, likely to succumb to post-release mortality, be released (M.S. 6212.2600, Subp. 2).
- 10. Report** - A tournament report must be submitted to the Regional Fisheries Offices within 30 days of the completion of this tournament. Failure to comply may jeopardize future permitting considerations. (M.R. 6212.2800).

**11. Tournament Format - Choose one from below. Typically, one box is selected except if multi-species tournament and "Mandatory kill for Walleye" condition is added.**

- Immediate release (aka Catch-Photo-Release)** - All fish are immediately released at the site of capture and not taken into possession (e.g. placed in livewell). The following conditions apply to this format:
  - Transport of fish to a central weigh-in location is not allowed.
  - For tournament purposes, immediate release refers to the minimum amount of time necessary to identify, unhook, measure, photograph and release the fish into its environment in a revived and healthy condition. This definition does not constitute possession, so minimum size regulations do not prohibit registration of sub-legal fish in an immediate release fishing tournament. All fish must be registered as quickly as possible and released at the site of the catch.
  - Holding fish in landing nets, cradles or live-wells while a judge boat is summoned for verification and registration will not be allowed.
  - All released fish must be capable of holding themselves upright in the water and have a high probability of survival. Fish meeting a legal length limit in poor condition, expected to die, may not be released (M.S. 6212.2600, Subp. 2).
  - Fish less than the legal length limit may not be harvested regardless of condition but should be reported as tournament mortality if that is likely.
- Catch and release with weigh-in** - Fish are taken into possession and transported alive to a weigh-in site. Fish are intended to be released alive but must be capable of holding themselves upright in the water and have a high probability of survival. Fish meeting a legal length limit in poor condition, expected to die, may not be released (M.R. 6212.2600, Subp. 2).
- Catch and keep** - The disposition of fish caught and registered in the tournament is up to the participant. Most legal fish are harvested but many anglers may choose to release tournament registered fish. Released fish must be capable of holding themselves upright in the water and have a high probability of survival.
- Mandatory kill for walleye** – Due to anticipated delayed mortality, all Walleye, Sauger, and their hybrids must be killed following weigh-in, regardless of condition.

**12. Fish Disposition (is conditional, depending on tournament format):**

- A. Live Fish:** Live fish for later release will be turned over to a tournament official. Lively fish in good condition, capable of maintaining an unaided upright position in water, may be released in permitted waters, following weigh-in. For a kill format tournament live fish may not be returned to tournament waters regardless of condition or chances of survival. This is due to anticipated high delayed mortality.
- B. Dead Fish (disposition from kill tournament and fish unable to be released after weigh-in)**
  - The preferred option, when possible, is to return dead fish to the anglers who caught them.
  - In large events where weigh-in handling logistics result in co-mingled fish it may not be possible to return specific fish to the anglers who caught them. The following protocol needs to be followed by tournament organizers who choose to take possession of dead fish.
  - Prior to the first day of the tournament, the permit holder will notify the Area Fisheries Supervisor of the name of the person that is designated to oversee the processing of mortality fish. The designee shall advise of the location the fish will be stored. All fish that cannot be released will be properly cooled, processed and frozen by designees of the tournament sponsor. Fish shall be processed consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MN Dept. of Ag., MN Dept. of Health, and MN DNR. These fish will be documented each day of the tournament on the fish processing and packaging form that is provided to the sponsor.

- Upon completion of the tournament the local DNR Conservation Officer will issue a Confiscation/Seizure tag to document the transfer of these fish. Processed fish may then be gifted to a charitable organization or a nursing care facility under the documentation of a Confiscation/Seizure Disposition Report. Transfer and use of any gifted fish shall be consistent with 97A.501, 97A.505 and 97A.510. All fish not disposed of in this manner must be taken to an appropriate waste disposal facility.
- The tournament sponsor is required to submit a detailed account of the disposition of all fish with their tournament report within 30 days of completion of the event.

### **13. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Related Permit Conditions**

**Tournament sponsors must allow authorized inspectors to fully inspect watercraft and water related equipment of all tournament participants when entering or leaving tournament waters when approached. Inspections will include a visual and tactile search, inside and out, for the presence of any aquatic vegetation, invasive species, water, or mud.**

- All watercraft launched into tournament waters must be free of aquatic plants and nonnative species, and live wells and bilges must have been drained of water.
- It is illegal to launch a watercraft or trailer with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited invasive species attached.

**Participants must:**

- Clean all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers and other water-related equipment before leaving the water access. It is illegal to transport prohibited invasive species—including zebra mussels—whether dead or alive.
- Drain water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving the water access or shoreland property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash.
- It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another.
- It is illegal to release worms in the state; worms are not native to Minnesota.
- If you want to keep your live bait, you must drain all lake or river water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

### **14. Additional permit conditions for all permitted bass catch, transport, and release tournaments**

- A. Watercraft - All boats must be equipped with functioning livewells with either flow-through systems or functioning aerators. Livewells must be properly sized to sustain the anticipated number and size of fish in good condition.
- B. Weigh-in
  - a. Location of weigh-in station should be within 200 feet of shoreline.
  - b. Tournament director is responsible for providing fish handling bags. Fish handling bags should be double bags with reinforced impermeable outer bag with removable mesh inner bag. The number of bags in use is dependent on the size of the event.
  - c. At no time shall fish be transported without water.
  - d. Fish should not be held in unaerated water for more than five (5) minutes

C. Limits

- a. The maximum limit for team events is six (6) Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth combined)
- b. The maximum limit for boater/non-boater or Pro-Am format events is five (5) Bass per competitor (Largemouth and Smallmouth combined)
- c. There is no specified limit for catch and immediate release events

**For permitted tournaments with less than 25 boats:**

A maximum of 6 weigh-in bags will be in use at any one time

**For permitted tournaments with 25-50 boats:**

A maximum of 12 weigh-in bags will be in use at any one time

**For permitted tournaments with more than 50 boats:**

- a. A maximum of 20 weigh-in bags will be in use at any one time
- b. Aerated or oxygenated holding tanks are required. A minimum of four (4) one hundred (100) gallon tanks is required with one additional tank for every 15 boats above 50. Holding tanks must be shaded.

**Other Provisions:** (number sequentially following standard provisions numbers)

- 15.** The Everett Bay Narrows will be a NO WAKE zone for tournament participants. The tournament start location and end of the day initial check-in-point will be outside of the Everett Bay Narrows.
- 16.** For safety reasons, tournament participants must travel at low speed through all the narrows and congested areas.
- 17.** All walleye from 20" through 26" must be immediately released. Each two person team may weigh in a maximum of 6 walleye, either all less than 20 " or no more than 2 of the 6 can be over 26". In no case may angler teams be in possession of more than 1 walleye over 26" per angler.
- 18.** Tournament organizers are encouraged to contact the Vermilion Lake Association to coordinate AIS action activities: <http://vermilionlakeassociation.org/about-the-association/meet-the-board>
- 19.** In accordance with Condition 6 of Standard Permit Language, the Tournament organizer must ensure that use of Bois Forte land for the tournament, including weigh-in location near the Fortune Bay marina, has received approval from the Bois Forte band.
- 20.** This permit grants permission to hold a fishing contest on listed waters but does not convey permission to hold a weigh-in. Weigh-ins are not allowed at state-owned access sites but may be held at non-state-owned sites with permission from the owner. It is the permittees responsibility to gain permission from the weigh-in site owner.