

# *Mighty Miss Walleye Series*



## ***Open Team Events***

*For the Weekend*

*Mississippi River Walleye Angler*

## How did the MMWS come about?

First off, I must tell you I love competitive walleye tournament fishing. From the smell of TCW3 burning in the morning before a long anticipated flight off, to grinding out that last important kicker for a winning limit, it gets in your blood and it's hard to shake.

After several dedicated years of fishing multiple national walleye circuits and opens I began to see distinct things I liked, and more often disliked, about competitive fishing events. I took all these observations, my years of past customer feedback as a large chain retail Fishing Manager, and angler comments as a service manager and salesmen at a local marine dealer to draw some solid conclusions.

Walleye tournament fishermen are not happy and want more!

I've found many avid tournament anglers who are frustrated with the high costs and low payouts of most competitive walleye fishing events today. They put their heart and soul into a circuit only to find the organizer is more concerned about a stage show than who was on that stage, who supported them, the resource, or what the anglers needed to do to get there. The glamour and prestige is well sold, but rarely delivered.

I've even witnessed anglers to the point they had to hang up the very sport they love or become divorced due to financial reasons. Others were simply tired of using all their allotted vacation time to compete and not have time left to hunt in the fall. If you find yourself saying YES, I cannot agree more, then the Mighty Miss Walleye Series is for YOU. I decided to build this grass roots circuit to change angler's perceptions and build loyalty in a series they can take pride in.

If you enjoy being taken advantage of, piling on thousands of miles on your tow vehicle, staying in dive motels, and paying thousands to compete on waters you dislike, then this is not the circuit for you. If you'd rather stay close to home, have the opportunity to win over \$5,000 in one day, and have a fun time doing it, your team is a perfect candidate to fish the Mighty Miss Walleye Series! We don't profess our series will be perfect, but it will be competitive and you may make a little funny money to keep everyone in the family happy.

We hope you can join us this coming season, but please sign up soon as the field is limited, and filling very fast!

Your Executive Director,  
Dale A. Radcliffe  
Radcliffe Promotions LLC

## Why should I fish the MMWS?

1. No additional membership dues or fees like many other circuits.
2. Events are Sunday only events. This gives your team Saturday and week nights after work to prefish and prepare without the hassle of using valuable vacation days. We also encourage family involvement prior to and at the weigh-ins.
3. Low entry fee. Just \$200 per event — which is just \$100 per angler, with the opportunity to win up to \$5,500 for first place with inclusion in the big fish pot.
4. Biggest 100% side pot for a one day event on the river. With a full field, any minute you could catch the walleye worth up to \$2,000! All you need to do is pay in \$40 into the big fish pot at each event. You are never out of it, no matter how tough of day you are having. The next trolling pass could be pay dirt!
5. Limited field. We only allow 50 boats to compete per event so this equates in to more space for everyone to enjoy their day of competition.
6. Serious competition. You will be fishing along side some of the best Mississippi River walleye anglers in the country. This group enjoys a lot of camaraderie' and likes to talk fishing after the dust settles at Sunday's weigh in.
7. Limited travel expenses. With today's high gas prices who can afford to drive state to state? Close to home events also mean you can often stay at home or with family and friends which saves on traditional motel and meal expenses.
8. Right Pools – Right Time of Year. Being avid river fishermen, we are able to select tournament dates when certain pools traditionally fish the best. This equates into fun events with BIG fish and FULL limits.

## **2010 Mighty Miss Walleye Series (M.M.W.S.)**

*Hosted by:*

*Radcliffe Promotions LLC*

Each M.M.W.S. Tournament will be a one day format. Anglers can prefish up to 4:00 PM Saturday prior to the event pre tournament meeting. The events all will be held on Sundays.

A mandatory pre-tournament rules meeting will be held on Saturday night at 4:30 PM prior to the event where one team member must be present to register. Location will be at the event landing or at an alternative location in the event of inclement weather. Team registration, boat number, rule review, and entry into the 100% payback BIG FISH pot will be done at this time.

**Participation and Eligibility:** There will be no age limit; however an adult must accompany each person under the age of 18. Only two (2) persons will be allowed per boat. The tournament director (s) reserve the right to refuse an entrant. **Full Field is limited to ONLY 50 teams.** If the field fills, alternates will be placed on a waiting list in the order of entry received. **SEE FLIGHT OUT ORDER in rules for important details.\***

**Application and Deadline:** Entry fee deadline is Saturday at 5PM the weekend preceding the event. No late entries will be accepted in any circumstance. A completed application by both team members must be signed and submitted with payment in full. Refunds will only be given up to this deadline as well with a \$50 penalty to the team (s) not choosing to fish.

**Substitutes:** A team may substitute one member but not both. In the event neither team member can compete, the entry fee will not be refunded, but included in the final payout.

**Sportsmanship:** Each team is a representative of the event and is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any team falling to uphold this professionalism may be disqualified.

**Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs:** NO alcoholic beverages or other stimulates or depressants shall be allowed in the tournament boats or in possession of the contestants prior to morning check in or during the tournament hours. Absolutely NO Exceptions!

**The M.M.W.S (Mighty Miss Walleye Series), its officers and employees, promoters, tournament directors, sponsors, volunteers, and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies, ect. are not responsible for deaths, injuries, damage, liability, theft, fire, or any loss of any kind to entrants. Each entrant, upon signing and entry form, will be signing a waiver form.**

**\*Disqualification from the tournament for any reason will result in forfeiture of entry fee.\***

**Photo Release:** We agree any photographs, video, or other promotional material taken during a MMWS event is property of the MMWS and may be used by the MMWS, its sponsors, or the media without royalties or prior consent.

## **REGULATIONS**

**Permitted Fishing Locations:** M.M.W.S. tournaments will be based on Pools 5 through 9 of the Mississippi River. See which pools will be fished per event on the official entry form page. Tributaries can be fished but must be accessible by boat and proper WI, MN, and IA state licenses and regulations must be held and followed by both team members. All angling must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart boat to land a fish. Both anglers must remain in the boat during the tournament during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat except in case of emergency or life threatening weather. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited except for coming to the scales directly from the launch ramp to weigh-in stage.

**Tournament Hours:** Flight out will begin at 7:00 AM Sharp and end at 2:30 PM Sharp. Any boat not checked in by 2:30 is disqualified. It is your responsibility, no exceptions.

**Boat Qualifications:** All tournament boats must measure a total length of sixteen (16) feet and a minimum of 25hp for safety reason. Each boat is required to possess liability insurance for their boat in any MMWS event. All boats participating must have a functioning recirculating live well system capable of adequately maintaining a tournament weight. Each dead fish will result in a one (1.0) pound deduction from the teams total weight. We strongly encourage the use of a catch and release agent such as (Rejuvenade) [www.bassmedics.com](http://www.bassmedics.com) and/or ice to assist in maintaining the best possible condition of the fish. Dead fish are the responsibility of team to ensure they are taken home and utilized properly.

**Life Jackets:** Life jackets must be zipped and buckled, and kill switch must be attached to the life jacket of the boat operator anytime the main combustible engine is in operation above idle speed. All life jackets must be US Coast Guard approved.

**Tackle and Equipment:** All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner per the state regulations. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. State certified live bait or artificial lures may be used. It is the contestant's obligation and responsibility to produce adequate documentation to ensure all state and local bait regulations are followed. Violation or issuing of a citation by a DNR official will result in immediate disqualification.

**Invasive Species:** Aquatic invasive species can crowd out native plants and animals and threaten the future quality of the waters we fish. Boaters can take action to prevent the spread of these. Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment

before leaving the landing. Drain water from live wells and bait containers before leaving the landing. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Pressure wash your boat and equipment at a car wash or at home with hot water, especially if moored for more than a day. Otherwise let your boat dry for a minimum of five days before the next use. Wisconsin laws prohibit launching a boat, boat trailer, or boating equipment if there are any aquatic plants or zebra mussels present. Unfortunately, the Mississippi River has several exotics and we all need to do our part to ensure they do not spread to other bodies of water.

#### **RULES:**

The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the events unless State or Local Laws are in conflict. Interpretation and enhancement of the rules will be left to the tournament director and ethics committee. In the event of a rule violation, the committee may impose such sanctions, as they deem appropriate, including without limitation to, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters. It is the committee's discretion to make changes where safety is concerned. All participants must comply with all Coast Guard, State, and Local Regulations. ANY competitor receiving a citation for violations of any Coast Guard, State, or Local regulations will be disqualified immediately. It is the contestant's responsibility to know and follow these regulations.

**Permitted Fishing Locations:** Each event the Director will discuss the permitted pool or pools at the pre-tournament meeting as designated on the registration form. Tributaries can be fished but must be accessible by boat and proper WI, MN, and IA state licenses and regulations must be held and followed by both team members. All angling must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart boat to land a fish. Both anglers must remain in the boat during the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat except in case of emergency or life threatening weather. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited except for coming to the scales for weigh-in at the launch landing. **Only** in the event of a boat breakdown or malfunction can a team member board another competing team's boat. One member of the team may bring his catch to the scales with another team, but his catch must be separated into a separate live well or section of the live well to insure fish are segregated or tagged. Only a competing team can bring in another team. Any other non-tournament or non-director authorized boat will disqualify the team's catch. The captain of the disabled boat must stay with the vessel until a proper rescue boat can tow them in to the nearest safe harbor or landing. This is the responsibility of the owner of the boat. The director must be notified immediately if this situation occurs.

**Protest and Grievances:** Sportsman like conduct and boating safety is highly enforced. Any protest grievance by any individual (s) must be brought before the director prior to the end of weigh-in. A \$75.00 cash fee must be filed with the grievance and the one filing it must put it in writing. If the grievance on the other team or individual is found to be unquestionably true the fee will be reimbursed to the individual. An ethics committee appointed along with the

director (s) will meet in this instance to decide the fate of the grievance. If the team is found to have violated the tournament rules, penalties up to, and including disqualification **will be enforced**. If the violation is found to be without merit the \$75.00 protest fee will go towards promoting future events.

**Pre-Tournament Inspection:** All boats are required to use the prescribed landing the morning of the event for put in. A trailered inspection of the boat's livewell prior to the event is mandatory by a designated tournament official. Failure to have this done will result in disqualification. Orderly launching of the boats is expected. Please respect other local recreational anglers and allow them priority access to the ramp as they may arrive during the launch process. Please be respectful and give room as this is their landing as well.

**Flight Out Order:** Flight out number for morning take off will be determined by date of paid entry fee. \*Those teams who prepay for **ALL FOUR** scheduled events **AND \$40 BIG FISH POT (\$960.00 total)** prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 will be eligible for the flight out priority spots and will be allowed to go out in that order. All other teams thereafter will then be added by date their entry fees were received OR added to the waiting list. **DO NOT DELAY OR YOU MAY NOT GET IN- FIRST PAID IN FULL, FIRST ON THE LIST!!!**

**Main Dam Lockage:** THIS IS NOT A RACE. **First boat in is first boat out.** Period! **Failure to follow this will result in Automatic Disqualification.** Safe locking rules must be followed by all teams. Please be considerate and respect your fellow teams and take into account differences in boat sizes and abilities.

**Weigh-in procedure:** **Tournament scales will open at 12:00 NOON. Once your team weighs in, you are DONE fishing for the day.** A drive through weigh-in format will be used at all events. We ask you fill your well FULL and have water recirculate on the fish prior to, during, and after the fish are weighed. Each team is responsible for the proper live release or utilization of their dead fish after they are weighed. We insist that patience and courteous conduct be used during the weigh-in procedure and upon returning your fish to the river.

**Scoring:** Placing will be set upon total weight of **FOUR (4)** fish weighed. Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye only can be weighed with a minimum state law length of 15". Six fish may be in possession per team when arriving at the scales. The team must choose their best four to be weighed. **Any short fish not measuring the 15" size limit will result in disqualification.** Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and the tail pinched. "The Judge" is the official measuring board of the MMWS Trail. A courtesy "Judge" bump board will be provided if needed. The weigh master's discretion is final on all measured length and dead fish. Large fish in contention for big fish pot will be inspected closely and are recommend to be weighed in live to ensure their safe release. Weight cheating (ie adding sinkers) or excessively obvious long term dead or caged fish are grounds for immediate disqualification from current and all future events. If you find your live well stops working weigh in immediately at noon or contact the director.

**Ties:** Ties between places will be determined by the team's largest fish recorded at the time of weigh-in, then by flip of the coin.

**BIG WALLEYE POT:** Your selection of the (one) largest fish will be given to go for the 100% additional BIG FISH POT. Each team is highly encouraged to weigh their largest fish. In the event of a weight tie, the pot will be split equally between the top big fish teams.

**The M.M.W.S Executive Director's ruling is the final decision to all rules interpretations. ALL decisions are FINAL.**

**ENTRY FEE and BIG FISH SIDE POT**

**ENTRY FEE:** Each two man team consists of a **\$200 entry fee**. Payout will be determined by the number of paid entrants. A percentage of the proceeds will go to support local organizations and to cover tournament administration fees, insurance, and future promotion of the trail. Payouts and number of placings will be determined upon number of boats competing per event. Payout schedules will be available and announced at the pre-tournament meeting Saturday night.

**BIG FISH POT:** This side bet is voluntary and is 100% payback. Each team must determine and pay in full \$40 per boat (team) during registration at the pre-tournament meeting. Only one place will be paid for this side pot going to the largest individual walleye weighed. This sum will be awarded with the prize money at the event. In example (50 boat full field with all teams in) **\$2,000.00 ADDITIONAL POT = WINNING TEAM TAKES ALL!**

**NEWS & UPDATES:** Please be sure to put your current e-mail address on your entry form. All press releases, rule alterations, location and date updates will be sent to you direct so it is very important you have a working e-mail address. Other updates will also be posted on [www.walleyefirst.com](http://www.walleyefirst.com) on the Mississippi River Walleye Forum if for some reason you do not have e-mail. This will be the official website for information until a site is needed. If you should need to contact us please do so via e-mail at [MMWSdirector@live.com](mailto:MMWSdirector@live.com).

**Membership Fees and Dues:** MMWS does not require either of these! Let's Fish!

Mighty Miss Walleye Series  
Radcliffe Promotions LLC  
N6252 Eric Avenue  
Onalaska, WI 54650