

# FishCrazy Lake Erie Walleye Spring Derby 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES

Interpretations of the rules will be at the discretion of the Tournament Derby Committee. The rules and the interpretations of them will be final and not open to protest.

All Derby information, updates, forms, leader boards, etc. will be available on the Official Derby Web Site. <http://www.lakeeriewalleyederby.com>

Derby runs from Sunday April 26, 2026, through Saturday June 06, 2026, at midnight. **THE DEADLINE for the Derby Registrations is Thursday April 23, 2026, at midnight. No Refunds after Thursday April 23, 2026, for any reason! THE DEADLINE for weigh-ins is Noon on Sunday June 07, 2026.**

**1. Individual "Derby Registrations"** are \$50.00. Contestants are responsible for obtaining Registration Forms and Weighing Forms from the official Derby Web Site. <http://www.lakeeriewalleyederby.com>

- **In-Person Registrations** are accepted and considered from the time of the drop off. Complete the required information on the form and drop it off at announced drop off locations or FishCrazy Derby, LLC at 1387 West 87 ST. Cleveland Ohio, 44102, together with the \$ 50.00 fee; check or money order made out to FishCrazy Derby, LLC. The rules section will be marked with the location of drop-off information for your records.

- **Mail-in Registrations** will be considered from the date Postmarked on the envelope! Mail completed Registration Form, together with \$ 50.00 fee; check or money order (NO CASH) to: FishCrazy Derby, LLC., 1387 West 87 St., Cleveland, Ohio 44102. Mark the rules section with "Mailed-In. Date, Name on the check and Check number for your records.

- **The responsibility for any lost, stolen, or unreceived registrations lies solely with the Contestant.**

- **NSF payments** will result in temporary suspension of the contestant and are subject to a \$ 50.00 NSF Fee. The NSF fee plus the \$ 50.00 registration fee must be paid in person **in CASH** at the above address prior to **Friday April 24, 2026**. Failure to satisfy a bounced check, together with the NSF fee, will result in permanent suspension of the contestant from this Derby.

- **On-Line registrations. Are considered from the time on-line payment is made, together with completed On-Line registration. On-Line Registration will cost an additional On-Line Service Fee of \$ 5.00. Total On-Line Registration \$ 55.00. On-Line registrations will receive a \$10.00 coupon code from FishUSA good with a \$50.00+ purchase till the end of the Derby!**

**2. Fishing Rules and Regulations.** All contestants while fishing for the derby in either MI, OH and PA must follow that state's fishing rules and regulations and this Derby's rules during that time. Any contestant receiving a citation during the Derby period from ANY MI, OH or PA law enforcement agency regarding fishing regulations, will be disqualified and/or forbidden from this tournament **AND MUST FORFEIT THE WINNINGS, EVEN IF THE CONTESTANT ALREADY RECEIVED THE PRIZE. IN THE EVENT THE CONTESTANT DOES NOT RETURN THE WINNINGS VOLUNTARILY, THE DERBY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROCEED WITH LEGAL ACTION IN ORDER TO RECUPERATE THE WINNINGS AND THE CONTESTANT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL LEGAL CONCEQUENCES AND COSTS INCURRED BY THE DERBY.** Fish can be caught at any time during the derby period on Lake Erie MI, OH and PA waters and its tributaries!

**3. Rod/Line Rule.** While fishing for the derby in either MI, OH or PA, Contestants can fish from shore or boat and **must adhere to those State's Fishing Rules and Regulations and this Derby's Rules. When fishing from a boat ALL BOAT OCCUPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE DERBY. EXCEPT MINORS WHO TURN 4 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER ANY TIME DURING THE DERBY YEAR. THEY ARE ALLOWED ON THE BOAT AS OBSERVERS ONLY AND CANNOT REGISTER FOR THE DERBY! NO EXTRA RODS ARE ALLOWED TO BE USED ON THEIR BEHALF WHILE FISHING FOR THE DERBY, AND ANY FISH REELED IN BY THEM CANNOT BE COUNTED FOR THE DERBY!** When fishing from shore, assistance with netting the fish from a non-Contestant is allowed. **CONTESTANTS ARE ALLOWED ONLY ONE FISHING LURE PER LINE WITH NO MORE THEN THREE HOOKS ATTACHED TO THE ONE LURE!!!!**

**4. Weighings.** Contestants can weigh and register an unlimited number of fish throughout the duration of the Derby at no additional cost. Contestants **MUST WEIGH THEIR FISH PERSONALLY!** A minor contestant, 17 years old or younger, **MUST** be accompanied by the adult legal guardian and co-sign the weighing form. Only the Contestant's heaviest fish will be used in determining the Contestants' placement on the Leader Boards. **Contestants are responsible for acquiring their Weighing Forms and must complete and sign them personally. A weighing form to completed 100% (e.g., Names of ALL PERSONS ON THE BOAT at the time of the catch) WILL NOT BE ACEPTED!!!** The weighing station will fill in their portion at the time of the weighing. Contestants will receive **PROOF OF THE WEIGHING, WHICH THE CONTESTANT MUST PRESENT TO BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR THE FISH CAUGHT! CONTESTANT ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WEIGH THEIR FISH AND MUST NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH THE SCALE!!!!** All scales used are certified, and the weight is measured down to **1 hundredth of a pound (0.01)**. Measurements are obtained by collapsing/pinching the tail for the longest length of the fish, by **increments of 1/8"**. Any tampering with the fish to obtain an unnatural and altered weight or measurement will result in immediate disqualification of the fish and the contestant. **IF MORE THEN ONE CONTESTANT IS PRESENT ON THE BOAT AT THE TIME OF THE CATCH, THE NAMES OF EVERY CONTESTANT ON THE BOAT MUST BE PROVIDED ON THE WEIGHING FORM!!! A weighing form that is not completed 100% (e.g., Names of ALL PERSONS ON THE BOAT at the time of the catch) WILL NOT BE ACEPTED!!!** **FISH CAN ONLY BE WEIGHED AT ONE OF THE DERBY'S WEIGHING STATION; FISH WEIGHED AT MULTIPLE DERBY WEIGHING STATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED! A** list of the **OFFICIAL WEIGHING STATIONS** can be found on the official Derby Web Site: <https://lakeeriewalleyederby.com/weigh-in-stations/>

**5. Using the fish for other tournaments RUNNING AT THE SAME TIME AS THIS DERBY** in either MI, OH or PA Lake Erie Waters and its' tributaries is allowed, if the participants, while fishing both tournaments concurrently, follow this derby's rules. However, the fish **MUST BE WEIGHED** at one of FishCrazy's Derby official weighing stations even if the fish was weighed by the other tournament, unless otherwise announced by the FishCrazy Derby Officials.

**6. Minor Contestants.** For All participants 17 years old and under at the time of registration, the registration form must be co-signed by an adult legal guardian of the minor. **The legal guardian does not have to be a Derby Contestant!** All minors who turn 5 to 12 years old at any time during the derby year will be entered into the KID'S DIVISIONS ONLY! **AND CAN ONLY COMPETE FOR THAT KID'S DIVISION PAYOUT PRIZES! HOWEVER, the kids in the Kid's Division are eligible to win the weekly prizes and biggest walleye caught from shore prize.** Their registration fees will go 100% towards the KID'S DIVISIONS payouts. All minors who turn 13 years old at any time during the derby year will be entered into the OVERALL DIVISION ONLY! WE EXPECT the adults to apply common sense when teaching the kids "Fair Play"! In the event an eligible minor wins a prize in the Overall Division, they would not be required to take a polygraph. **An adult present at the time of the catch and weigh in** will be required to take the polygraph instead of the kid. The adult will bear all consequences.

**7. Women's Division.** All females who turn 13 years old and older any time during the Derby year, will be entered into the "WOMEN'S DIVISION" AS WELL AS THE "OVERALL DIVISION" and they can win in both divisions.

**8. VETERAN'S DIVISION:** All Veterans, active or Honorably Discharged, will be entered into the Veteran's Division as well as the Overall Division and the contestant can win in both divisions. In case the Veteran is a Woman, they will also be entered into the Women's Division and can also win in this division as well.

**9. Polygraph Examinations.** **The 1ST PLACE WINNER of the Derby MUST submit to a MANDATORY polygraph examination.** Additional polygraph examinations will be administered at the Derby's Officials discretion. **Polygraph examinations can be administered at any time during the derby.** The contestant must be available for testing at the time and place designated by the Derby Officials. The participant **MUST** be available for the examination immediately. Only the actual cost of the test will be covered by the derby. Participants to be examined cannot be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication. A participant under such chemical influence at the time of examination will be considered a refusal on the participant's part. A participant's fitness to be examined is at the sole discretion of the polygraph examiner. The examiner needs to be advised of any prescribed medications and/or health issues. Only polygraph examiners chosen by the Tournament Officials will be used. **Participants MUST PASS the polygraph examination; refusal to cooperate or any attempt to manipulate the results of the examination will be considered a failed examination. A FAILED EXAMINATION will result in immediate disqualification of Contestant and fish and future participation in the FishCrazy Derby.**

**10. Tiebreakers.** Ties by weight are decided through length measurements. If still a tie, then a coin flip will decide the winner. The loser of the coin toss will drop down one place in the standings. All contestants involved must be present for the coin toss. If one contestant is not present, the winner will be the one contestant present. If neither party is present, they will lose their place in the standings. If necessary, the coin toss's location will be determined and announced prior to the awards party. The Contestants may also choose by LEGAL MUTUAL agreement to divide the winnings!

**11. W-9.** Any contestant receiving a total amount in prizes of \$ 600.00 or greater will be required to complete a W-9 form prior to receiving the payout money. In the case of a minor, the co-signer agrees to acquire the winnings and complete the W-9. All Contestants are responsible for all taxes due for the winning! **A copy of the winners Social Security Card must be provided to the Derby Officials!!!**

**12. Protests.** Any contestant has the right to protest another contestant. The protest must be made in writing to the Derby Officials any time during the derby, no later than 24 hours after the completion of the Derby, and must include the protest fee of \$ 500.00, all documentation, list of witnesses, etc., to uphold your protest. If the protest is upheld the fee will be returned. If it is not, no refund will be given. Polygraph examinations **MAY** be used to address the protest and must be taken by the contestants in question as required by the Derby Officials. Failure to submit to the polygraph examination and/or failure of the examination will result in immediate disqualification. The contact for protests is Virgil D Tent: FishCrazy Derby. LLC, 1387 West 87 St., Cleveland Ohio, 44102. 216-408-0404.

**13. Spirit of the rule.** It is our goal to provide a sportsman like Derby and a fair and even playing field. All concerns regarding the Derby and/or its rules should be directed to the Derby Officials, at the FishCrazy Derby, LLC, 1387 West 87 St, Cleveland Ohio 44102, as they have sole jurisdiction in determining the application of the rules.

**14. Derby Entries.** This Derby and its Officials have the right of refusal or expulsion from the Derby to any person, for any reason. The Derby and its Officials reserve the right to adjust and/or add new rules and regulations, AT ANY TIME, to cover any circumstances not covered in these rules and the Official's decision is final as to interpretation of said rule. Contestants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules and check for any updates and changes posted on the official site of the tournament: <http://www.lakeeriewalleyederby.com>

**15. Promotion and Advertising.** All contestants agree to be present and receive their awards and prizes publicly. All participants and winners will comply with the use of their names, pictures, winning announcements, publicity and claims by us, our associates, sponsors, and others of interest for promotional and advertising purposes, and stakes no other claims for such uses!

**16. Drinking and drug use.** The committee does not condone the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs on the water and/or when participating in this tournament/derby, however this subject is left to the discretion of the laws applying to these issues. Drunkenness and drug use in the official areas of the tournament/derby will result in the offender's disqualification.

**17. Waiver and hold harmless agreement.** By registering in this tournament/derby, all contestants agree to hold harmless any, and all organizers, promoters, sponsors, tournament/derby Officials, agents, agencies, organizations, and ALL others participating, organizing and promoting this tournament/derby. Furthermore, all contestants agree to waive all responsibility for death, injuries, damages, liability, theft, fire, loss, and damages of any kind to contestants or anyone due to participating in this tournament/derby.

**18. CASH AWARDS.** All cash awards are determined by 80% of the Derby Registrations, minus costs, plus 100% of Sponsorships. Payouts will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony, Thursday 06/18/2026 , 4:00pm to 7:00pm. at **Wild Waves Motel and Lake House in Huron Ohio**