

2026 WHETSTONE BAY WALLEYE TOURNAMENT
BONESTEEL, SOUTH DAKOTA
June 6 & 7, 2026

TOURNAMENT SIZE:

- No more than 50 boats.

ELIGIBILITY

- Anyone with a valid South Dakota fishing license, a completed entry form with a signed liability waiver, and a paid entry fee (limited to 50 teams). Contestants (minimum of 1 team member) **MUST** check in at the rules meeting on June 5th at the Bonesteel City Hall by 7:00 PM.

PRACTICE

- Any time before the rules meeting and anytime after Sunday's weigh-in.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- Contestants are expected to be courteous, safety-conscious, and practice fundamental sporting principles. Entrants are reminded that the "spirit of the rule" will prevail in all judgements.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- Artificial and live bait will be allowed. No live bait from unlicensed retailers is allowed. The number of poles for a two-man team is 4, and the number of poles for a 3-man team is six.

LAUNCH AREA

- All boats must leave the boat launch area of Whetstone Bay and must not be trailered to any other location. At this time, we are still allowing boats to travel from other boat ramps, but these boats must meet at the picnic shelter where we weigh fish for livewell inspections prior to launching each day.

FISHING BOUNDARY

- Lake Francis Case.

HEADQUARTERS

- Whetstone Bay Recreation Area will serve as the launching and loading headquarters. The weigh-in headquarters will be at the Whetstone Bay Picnic Shelter.

SCORING

- Prizes will be based on a total, two-day weight. Each team is permitted to weigh seven (7) legal walleye. Each team may only weigh two (2) walleye 20" or longer. Any fish mangled, mashed, or mauled will be disqualified. Sauger/Saugeye will count as walleye for all tournament

prizes. High-grading of fish is prohibited. All teams must check in at the weigh-in.

BIG FISH PAYOUT

- It is the angler's responsibility to have an individual fish weighed if you feel it may qualify for the 'big fish' payout.

TIES

- Ties for prize money will be resolved by combining the place winnings for the tied positions and splitting the winnings between the teams that are tied.

FISHING HOURS

- Saturday Flight 1 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Flight 2 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- Sunday Flight 2 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Flight 1 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM

WEIGH-IN

- Tournament weigh-in will be conducted under the picnic shelter at the Whetstone Bay Recreation Area. All fish must be in the weigh-in line (chute) by the predetermined flight time.

INSPECTIONS

- Boats will be inspected before each tournament day.

RULINGS

- All rulings by the tournament officials are final. The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse any entry. The tournament committee reserves the right to render all decisions final. Any protest must be accompanied by a \$300 protest fee. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. Anyone found cheating will be immediately disqualified, and the reason for disqualification will be announced at the weigh-in.

MISC RULES

- All South Dakota fishing laws must be followed (no culling or high-grading of fish is allowed - once a fish is placed in the livewell, it must remain there).
- Participants are not allowed to go back to the boat to switch any fish.
- South Dakota State Park entrance licenses are required for all vehicles.
- It is illegal for two or more boats to pull up to each other during tournament hours.
- Coming ashore will not be allowed except in emergencies.